5 NMC students attend Alaska geoscience workshop. PAGE 3
Torres' defense eyes July 2024 trial date. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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$1

CNMI Joint Military Training (CJMT) - a Partnership to Enhance Homeland Defense
Training on Tinian that is modern, technology based, realistic, future force training. It includes distributed operations of logistics, reconnaissance, and infantry supported by aviation
27,000 Comments!
2015 Draft CJMT EIS/OEIS Released
DoD
CNMI
2016-2017
Key Meetings
2019, 2020
2021
2022
Key Takeaways
Connect In Person:
Better Understanding
A Major Shift
DoD made adjustments. are they in the right direction?
Collaborative Sessions
to better understand concerns and proposals
DRAFT EIS FALL 2024
October 2019
CNMI Senior Leaders attend live fire demonstration in Hawaii
November 2019
INDOPACOM Senior Leader visits Tinian
January 2020
CNMI and DoD Technical Working Group and Senior Leaders meet to discuss 'Current Thinking'
Further meetings postponed due to the COVID pandemic
January& February 2021
Reconnect via virtual meetings between CNMI and DoD Senior Leaders, Action Officers, and CNMI agencies
July 2021
CNMI and DoD Technical Working Group and Senior Leaders meet to improve DoD understanding of CNMI Concerns
COVID Protocols
March 2022
CNMI and DoD Technical Working Group and Senior Leaders meet to review the revised training proposal and receive CNMI feedback
CNMI representatives include:
DoD representatives include:
Commonwealth Utility Authority
More Work To Be Done...
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Joint Military Training Update
www.cnmijointmilitarytrainingeis.com

US military shares revised plans for the CNMI

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Several community members joined U.S. military representatives last Tuesday evening at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan for the first of two CNMI Joint Military Training update meetings to learn more about the U.S. military's plans for the region.

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CHRYSTAL MARINO
A U.S. military representative explains some of the details of the revised CNMI Joint Military Training draft prior to the start of a presentation last Tuesday evening at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

AS CHINA REINSTATES CNMI ON APPROVED DESTINATION LIST

Palacios stands pat on pivot

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios reiterated his previous decision and said Monday that he has not changed his position to pivot the CNMI away from its reliance on the Chinese tourism market.

"My current position is still the same. We cannot continue to be reliant [on the Chinese tourism market]. If they come, that's great," said Palacios during a news briefing at the Office of the Governor.

Palacios talked about his position about the Chinese tourism market on the heels of the decision of China's National

See PALACIOS on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
44

OAG withdraws motion to revoke Kaipat's release

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has withdrawn its motion to revoke the temporary release of convicted rapist Kenneth Thomas Blas Kaipat while he awaits sentencing.

The OAG, through chief solicitor Robert Glass Jr., has filed a notice withdrawing its previous motion to revoke Kaipat's release and to remand him to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

The notice came after Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan issued a judgment, stating that all pre-trial conditions imposed on Kaipat have been revoked but he will remain on house arrest pending his sentencing.

According to Glass, the OAG withdrew its motion as

See OAG on Page 4

Kan Pacific suing IPI again for non-payment

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd. is again suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, claiming that IPI has breached its contract and has once again failed to make required annual payments.

Kan Pacific, through its lawyer, Joseph Iacopino, filed a new complaint against IPI last Aug. 14 in federal court, alleging that IPI has continuously failed and

See IPI on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
3Hi-Res Designs has made life easier for people looking for customized T-shirts.
PAGE 11

NATION
Maui County has raised the death toll to 106 in the wildfire that all but incinerated Lahaina.
PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
A marble statue that depicts a felled Native American is being returned to Boston.
PAGE 15

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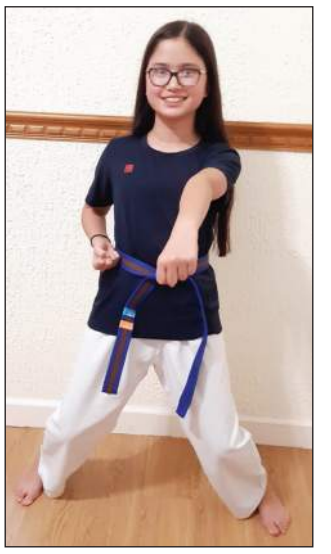

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Alleena Dela Cruz Villaluz, 12, and her 10-year-old brother, Artie.

By LUPE ROBINSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

This early, 12-year-old Alleena Dela Cruz Villaluz already knows that she wants to follow in her grandfather Jose's footsteps of becoming a lawyer.

Alleena, an excellent student at Saipan International School, is well on her way toward her goal. Last year, she received the Verbal Commendation Award for the Model United Nations competition in the CNMI. This competition is open to students 6th grade and up.

Her 10-year-old brother, Artie, is also doing good in school. Both have received awards in Math Court.

Alleena and Artie started taking taekwondo lessons last year. They have achieved the Brown Stripe, Brown Belt, Alleena said.

Their mom Roxie said, "I try to keep these two busy and interested in learning new things."

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5 NMC students attend Alaska geoscience workshop

Northern Marianas College students Ainah Tomokane Chargualaf, Daisy Rina Mendiola, Grace Min Choi, Esther Hansol Huh, and Erin Pascual Ferrer recently attended the 2023 Indigenous Geoscience Community Workshop in Ketchikan, Alaska.

They had the opportunity to represent the CNMI and NMC at the conference and shared cultural and ecological knowledge with other participants.

The Indigenous Geoscience Community Workshop is a conference hosted by the Indigenous Geoscience Community and is designed to connect Indigenous communities around the U.S. and increase their representation through the field of geoscience. The Indigenous Geoscience Community is a community of indigenous geoscientists who aim to increase the leadership, representation, and support of Indigenous peoples within the geoscience field. The Indigenous Geoscience Community and subsequent IGCW2023 workshop was funded through the NSF RISE Opportunity.

The workshop, led by Dr. Wendy Todd of the University of Minnesota Duluth, included topics such as inclusiveness, traditional knowledge systems and western science, the presentation of various indigenous cultural practices, the ecosystems of different indigenous communities, native plants, as well as the opportunity to delve into the geosciences through hiking.

Ainah Chargualaf's favorite memory of the workshop was connecting with other participants through their various cultural backgrounds.

"Coming from a small island with a history of colonization by the Spanish, Germans, Japanese, and Americans, it was eye-opening to learn that other indigenous groups such as the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian tribes [that] have undergone similar experiences in the past and that they are also having issues preserving their culture and identity due to Westernization," she said. "I felt a sense of connection and empowerment during this workshop because I felt that despite being a diverse group, we all understood each other's pain of losing our culture and wanting to keep our culture alive."

Chargualaf said the conference taught her the importance of preserving culture and how it can be implemented into everyday life, recalling a moment where a presenter shared the use of a traditional Haida story, "Raven Steals Water From Eagle," and how it was used to explain the water cycle process to STEM students, incorporating and relating culture to western science.

"It was fascinating to see how culture can be implemented in subjects such as STEM, and this example made me realize how culture and Western knowledge can coexist in harmony," she said. "Whether it be in small or big ways, as long as we stay true to our culture, acknowledge our culture, embrace our culture, and find ways in which we can connect our culture to our everyday practices, we can keep our culture alive and it won't be lost."

Chargualaf shared her aspirations to become a counselor and how the workshop emphasized the importance of multiculturalism and the influence that culture has on ourselves. "I want to become a counselor here in the CNMI so that I can help my community by embracing and promoting multiculturalism and providing guidance to the people to help them live successful and fulfilling lives," she said.

For Grace Min Choi, her favorite memory of the workshop was the opportunity to connect with other students.

"The Indigenous Geoscience Community workshop consisted mostly of Native students from across the United States," she said. "Although I am not a Native student, I was able to learn and view the world from the lens of indigenous people, including some of the Elders of the land we visited in Ketchikan, Alaska."

Choi recalled, "Something I learned from the conference that I will hold onto is that we have so much learning and unlearning to do as students, especially coming from a community of indigenous people."

She added that the conference taught students to practice their own cultures, as it is a part of their identity. Relating this to her personal experience, she said, "I was born and raised in Saipan, so I was never fully immersed in Korean culture. I am full Korean and this workshop made me want to learn more about my culture by asking questions to my elders and family members."

Choi connected her student career at NMC to her experience at the conference by sharing how this workshop shaped her to become a better listener and observer.

"A quote that was repeated throughout the conference was, 'I am an observer of the world, connected to the land and sea.' This quote is something that I now live by, with utmost respect for Mother Nature and for what the land and sea provide for us," she said.

Additionally, Choi states how this experience taught her to not be afraid to try new things. "Initially, I did not know what to expect from this conference but it sounded like an amazing opportunity," she noted. "I am incredibly grateful and blessed to have been able to travel to someplace new while representing our islands and the college." ***(NMC)***

NMC

From left, Northern Marianas College Natural Resource Program coordinator Kelsey McClellan, and NMC students Ainah Tomokane Chargualaf, Esther Hansol Huh, Grace Min Choi, Daisy Rina Mendiola, and Erin Pascual Ferrer.

'Probe will hopefully get to bottom of missing DFW firearms'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios hopes that the investigation at the Division of Fish and Wildlife will shed light as to who is responsible for the nine missing firearms issued to DFW.

"It should not happen," said Palacios during a press briefing. Monday.

As far as he is concerned, there should only one individual who should have the key to a gun safe, he said..

"When I was there, I was really leery that people would check in and out and I was looking at the SOP (Standard Operating Procedures). They didn't really have an SOP for it," the governor said.

He said he reached out to the Department of Public Safety because he personally believes that DFW should put the safe in the DPS armory.

Palacios underscored the need to have a more robust SOP about guns.

"We can't continue to operate that way and not be accountable for those weapons and firearms," he said.

The governor said he always has reservation about firearms.

He said when he served at DLNR, they never had firearms.

Palacios said it was much later when a petition came up to change the law that allows conservation officers to carry guns.

DLNR discovered last May 4 that eight DFW rifles and one handgun were unaccounted for and were deemed missing after the Office of the Public Auditor notified various government agencies that it wants a survey of all government-issued firearms in the CNMI.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-022, Rev.1

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIVE (5) LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids to supply and deliver five (5) light-duty vehicles to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist with the project management and inspections for the CUC Water and Wastewater systems upgrades and improvements.

This project is funded by a United States of Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) grant.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-23-022, Rev. 1 Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Light-Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 22, 2023** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing n**o later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 10, 2023,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Torres' defense eyes July 2024 trial date

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense team of former governor Ralph DLG Torres says it is now eyeing a July 2024 trial date.

In a statement on when Torres' jury trial should commence, his defense team said that, based on the volume of motions still pending before the court, a jury trial should be scheduled for some time in July 2024.

"Assuming, for the sake of scheduling, that the court hears any pending motions in late September or early October 2023, and denies any dispositive motions, it is Mr. Torres' position that the trial for this matter be held any time after July 2024," said the statement.

However, according to special prosecutor James Kingman, the prosecution wants to proceed with trial against Torres sooner rather than later.

Kingman, in his memorandum, asked that Superior Court judge pro tem Arthur Barcinas consider a jury trial date in October and set a hearing for all pending pretrial motions within the month of August.

Initially the prosecution proposed a December 2023 trial date for a number of reasons while the defense proposed an April 2024 trial date.

The court has yet to issue its ruling on the matter.

Torres has been charged by the CNMI Office of the Attorney General with 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or Diann T. Torres, his wife.

The complaint also included theft charges related to the former governor's travel expenses amounting to $20,000 between April 2018 and May 30, 2019, using public funds.

The case also alleges one count of contempt for failure to appear in compliance with a legislative subpoena.

Torres has denied the charges.

In September 2022, judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino dismissed without prejudice the contempt charge against Torres. Without prejudice means the charge can be refiled.

MILITARY

From page 1

At the start of the meeting at the Hibiscus Hall, community members were able to go around the room and get more information on the CJMT, the U.S. military's proposed training on Tinian and the Environmental Impact Statement draft updates, and changes. After the walkthrough, members of the community got to express their concerns, and also ask their questions with leading military personnel at the event.

After having already conducted meetings on Rota and Tinian, Maj. Gen. Mark Hashimoto of the U.S. Marine Corps said that the meetings have gone very well.

"They've been very valuable and they showed that while we've addressed a lot of the issues of concern, there's still a lot of things we have to figure out the answer to. Some of the things that have come up with consistency are biosecurity, solid waste, the aquifer… so those are things that are going to have to require creative solutions. …We're very, very grateful for the public coming out here and making their continued concerns notable."

He said he is very happy that the community is sharing its thoughts and hearing of the changes that need to be made to the original draft. "The team and I could not be more pleased than to share this collaboratively developed information that we've been developing with the CNMI over the last few years. We wanted to share the information that we've been sharing with elected leaders. We've come a long way. We listened to the voices of the people of the CNMI and we think the information we have will provide the public with good understanding of what are the proposed action for the enhanced training on Tinian. …When the draft EIS is published about a year from now, they will be able to have all the information digested so that they provide formal input to the Environmental Impact Statement process in about a year."

He said "What we would like the community to know is that their voices were heard and we are very grateful for the fact that their leadership as well as the general public stepped up and let us know what their thoughts were."

He said that, in the process, of coming up with the draft CJMT, they considered a wide variety of stakeholders, including inner-island commuters, people who do subsistence activities, boaters, fishermen, divers, tourists, cultural practitioners, and more and tried to develop a concept that had the least amount of impact on stakeholders. Ultimately, he said, they tried to develop a concept that accounted for the interests of the people on the island of Tinian.

Hashimoto also shared what has changed in the draft EIS since it was first published. Now there will be:

- No training activities on Pagan;
- No use of artillery or aviation;
- No extensive range footprint on delivered munitions on Tinian (i.e., no 14 live-fire ranges);
- No amphibious landing ramps, which would've caused coral damage;
- No high hazard impact areas;
- No activities that impede commercial air traffic.

"I would like to add that we don't have the need for what is referred to as 'special use airspace' and the significance of that is that Star Marianas will be able to operate in the same manner that it does today with this proposed enhanced training concept," Hashimoto noted.

In the current proposed training concept, it includes ground training within the military leased area, two live-fire ranges within the exclusive military use area instead of the 14 originally proposed, landing zones used for aviation or ground training, aviation training in the North Field, and training support facilities and capabilities.

Because Environmental Impact Statements can be lengthy and sometimes confusing and overwhelming and even at times be provided an inadequate amount of time for the community to fully digest all the information, Hashimoto said their team wanted to go through a series of events where they're able to share the information efficiently, so when it's time for the community to formally input their comments, that they have enough information processed about the EIS draft.

The EIS draft will be released in the middle of next year before the revised draft public meetings start in the fall of 2024. Ultimately the estimated release of the final EIS will be in late 2025.

When discussing the importance of these training sites Hashimoto said, "The region is becoming more and more dangerous, and we are in the business of keeping the peace. That is our primary job, that is what we do every day through deterrence. Should deterrence fail, we have to be ready to fight and win, and when I say fight, I mean the entire United States military. …As I like to say, you are us and us is you. So many of the men and women from the CNMI serve in our Armed Forces and one of the things we need is to be able to do realistic training and that's what the CNMI military training concept will provide our service members."

The second meeting was held last night and similar information was also shared by the military.

PALACIOS

From page 1

Tourism Administration last week to reinstate the CNMI on its Approved Destination status list, allowing package tours and charter flights to the destination once again.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, China was the second top source market for the CNMI, with South Korea in first place.

Palacios is glad the Chinese government is now allowing group tours to the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, the CNMI and other countries, but he said everyone will still have to remember that there is still a sensitivity factor to the locations of Guam and Tinian, where major military facility infrastructures are being built.

With the Chinese government now slowly opening up its outbound travel with more approved destinations for its tourists, the CNMI still can't afford to rely on that market too much.

"Again, we can't put all our eggs in that market," said Palacios, adding that he is not saying that Chinese tourism needs to stop.

At the end of the day, he said, this is a sensitive situation as the geopolitical climate right now is "very sensitive."

Obviously, he said, the U.S. and other countries probably have a different vetting process.

Palacios said Chinese tourists can still come to the CNMI via a visa waiver process, but when they go on to, say California, they will have to go through a visa process.

"So the vetting process is different," he said.

The governor said the federal government can "pull the plug" on the Chinese tourism market at any given time, so the CNMI needs to be mindful of that.

"And so to those folks that bring in the tourists, make sure that they're accounted for when they come in and are accounted for when they leave," he said.

The governor pointed out that there have been news about overstaying Chinese tourists on Saipan and overstaying CWs from the Commonwealth who make their way to Guam illegally.

"I'm not sure what the federal government is going to do with that. So there's a sensitivity. We cannot discount that and bury your head in the sand and say, 'Well, everything's great,'" Palacios said.

Last March, Palacios wrote a letter to Adm. John Aquilino, commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, expressing that his administration is committed to advancing U.S. national interests in the Pacific region, which includes pivoting away from the CNMI's reliance on its Chinese tourism market.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, before COVID-19, as many as 3 million Chinese travelers visited the U.S. annually, contributing more than $30 billion to the U.S. economy.

OAG

From page 1

the court has already revoked all pre-trial release conditions.

"Pursuant to the judgment issued by the court, the court exercised its discretion to revoke the pre-trial conditions, and released defendant on bail confined to house arrest (with an allowance for DPS to conduct safety checks) as expressed in *Commonwealth v. Camacho, 2002 MP 14* and Rule 46© of the Rules of Criminal Procedure. The Commonwealth informed counsel for defendant that it would be withdrawing its motion. Therefore, the Commonwealth withdraws its motion to reconsider," he said.

When Kaipat was released on bail pending his trial, the court imposed numerous conditions he was required to abide by to remain out of custody, which included a curfew, attending various classes with the CHCC Guidance Center, and more. He was also given the privilege to work and attend school while out on bail.

However, with the court revoking these pre-trial conditions, Kaipat is no longer allowed to do any of these things and will remain on house arrest 24 hours a day until his sentencing. The only exception granted by the court was medical emergencies.

Kaipat will be sentenced on Sept. 14, at 10am.

Last Tuesday, Glass filed the motion for reconsideration, asking the Superior Court to revoke its decision to release Kaipat and to instead remand him to DOCn custody immediately.

Kaipat, 19, was convicted of nine felony charges for the rape and assault of his 28-year-old cousin. However, following the jury trial, Bogdan released Kaipat to his parents on the condition that he remain on house arrest pending sentencing.

Glass argued that the court failed to follow the Commonwealth Code when it allowed Kaipat to remain out on bail even though he has already been convicted.

Glass argued further that Kaipat was impermissibly released and should be remanded to the DOC immediately.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, after just three hours of deliberation, Kaipat was found guilty on nine charges for the brutal rape and beating of his now 28-year-old cousin in a family residence in San Vicente on June 2, 2019.

Kaipat was found guilty of three counts of sexual assault in the first degree, two counts of sexual assault in the second degree, burglary, aggravated assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, and strangulation.

IPI

From page 1

refused to pay Kan Pacific even after the court issued a default judgment against the casino investor back in 2022.

Kan Pacific sued IPI back in 2021 for failing to fulfill its obligation under an agreement they made back in May 2016. Specifically, IPI was obligated to pay Kan Pacific annual payments in June 2020, June 2021, and June 2022, amounting to over $400,000.

The court issued a default judgment against IPI amounting to over $600,000 but IPI has yet to make any payments to date.

Kan Pacific alleges that IPI now owes another $200,000 for its June 2023 annual payment.

As relief, Kan Pacific wants the court to set the matter for a jury trial, order IPI to pay damages, the sum owed, the costs to file the suit, prejudgment interest, attorney's fees, and other relief deemed appropriate by the court.

The case arises from a written agreement that was entered between Kan Pacific and IPI on or about May 9, 2016. This case was originally filed with the Superior Court but was dismissed back in July 2021.

The written agreement was meant to incentivize and compensate Kan Pacific for the closure of Kan Pacific's business operations prior to the termination of its lease agreement.

The agreement between Kan Pacific essentially transferred all assets and operations from Kan Pacific to IPI and required Kan Pacific to encourage present employees to join IPI.

As part of the consideration for entering into the agreement, IPI became contractually and legally bound and obligated to pay Kan Pacific the sum of $5 million, which was to be satisfied by making 25 annual payments to Kan Pacific in the amount of $200,000 on June 1 of each calendar year starting on June 1, 2017.

IPI made the first three annual payments that were due in June 2017, June 2018, and June 2019. However, Iacopino said that IPI failed and refused to tender any portion of the amount that became due and owing on June 1, 2020.

MCS begins the 2023-2024 school year

MCS

The Mount Carmel School Choir and students wait for the Mass to begin at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Mount Carmel School welcomed back hundreds of students last week on Wednesday, Aug. 9, to begin the 2023-2024 school year.

The day kicked off with students meeting their homeroom teachers while orienting themselves to the school's various policies and procedures.

"We are eternally grateful to the many families who choose to provide a holistic Catholic education to their children at Mount Carmel School," said MCS president Frances. She was thrilled to see the many happy smiles of numerous returning and new students as they arrived.

After their morning orientation, the entire MCS family walked over to the Mount Carmel Cathedral for the traditional opening Mass for the school year. This particular Mass was particularly special as Fr. Nelson Plohimon, OAR—Mount Carmel's new school chaplain—presided over the Mass. After the homily, all MCS employees proceeded to the altar to participate in the traditional commissioning ceremony, where MCS employees affirmed their commitment to educating through the eyes of Christ.

Students then returned to their homerooms to continue learning more about changes for this upcoming school year, such as the return of a hybrid block schedule and two canteen servicers coming to campus, among others. Students then ended the day with some entertainment from the current aenior class who performed their stellar dance to a medley of Bruno Mars' hits from last year's Spring Pep Rally.

"This first day went very smoothly. Many of my classmates and I got back into our grooves quite quickly, especially while performing for the whole school. I cannot wait to see what else this school year brings," said MCS Student Council president Tyana Tesiro. ***(PR)***

Burger: CNMI's BGRT needs fixing

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

CNMI Taxation, with a focus on the Business Gross Revenue Tax, took center stage at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Tuesday, which featured David J. Burger as the club's guest speaker.

Burger, who is a managing partner at Burger Comer Magliari's Certified Public Accountants, shared a little on some of the CNMI's taxation flaws but also gave some perspective on the CNMI financial reports.

"Every government, including the CNMI government, has to get audited every year

And we are down to two firms giving audits, which is Princeton Young and my firm," he said. "...I've been to the governor's office at least three times this year. They are trying to get the 2021 figures audited. ...It's two years later. That's what happens when you don't have enough people in that department [Department of Finance] to generate the numbers. I don't know the solution to that. It's a struggle for the accounting firms. It's a struggle in a lot of Industries... to get graduates to come and work to do the things we do. "

Aside from the delayed financial reports, Burger shared that current CNMI tax laws and forms do have some flaws that also need to be changed.

"We have some stuff in our tax laws and our forms that's just not right and [I'm] trying to get it fixed. …I guess the ball is in my court. I have drafted legislation before and I'm going to have to draft it to get the things fixed."

Another big issue that the CNMI faces is its BRGT law, which he said has prevented investment firms from coming to the CNMI.

"Imagine you are an investment firm. All you do everyday is buy and sell securities stocks, bonds, corporate notes, whatever it is that you do. Our law says that every time you sell one of those... [give] 5% [as BGRT]. Now you don't make 5% on every trade and sometimes you lose money on a trade. So that's why we have no investment firms here. They can't deal with the BRGT. That's a problem I would like to get fixed. When we had the meeting at the Chamber of Commerce, I said my preference is get all the gains and losses over the year, net them out. If you have a gain, pay the BGRT. …Now we just have to run it through the Legislature. "

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Rotary Club of Saipan's president Irene Holl and the club's leading officers and directors pose with David Burger, managing partner of Burger Comer Magliari's Certified Public Accountants, after his presentation last Tuesday at the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

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COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)
RFQ23-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-IDIQ-016A
"ADDENDUM"

EXTENSION OF SUBMISSION DATE AND SUBMISSION OF INQUIRIES
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR IDIQ (INDEFINITE DELIVERY-INDEFINITE QUANTITY)
DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACTORS FOR COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, NMIAC Subchapter 140-80.1, CHCC hereby seeks the services of qualified Contractors to perform Design/Build Services for Projects located at the hospital in Saipan, Clinics in Tinian and Rota. The selected Contractors will be issued an Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract through **RFQ23-CHCC-DESIGN/BUILD-0016.** These services are in accordance with CHCC's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with these rules and regulations including but not limited to Sections **140-80.1-250 Pre-Qualification of Contractors and 140-80.1-305 Architect-Engineer Services.**

The Request for Proposals and was available on July 26th, 2023 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this **RFQ23-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-IDIQ-016.**

A Pre-conference meeting was held in August 2nd, 2023 at 9:30AM at the Conference Room #3 and general assembly was held at the Lobby of the Main Administrative Building.

Inquiries regarding this RFP is extended and must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at cora.ada@chcc.health no later than **September 4th, 2023.**

Proposers shall submit proposals and all supporting documents to **Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at cora.ada@chcc.health, no later than: 1700hrs (5:00pm) Chamorro Standard Time on September 15th, 2023.**

/S/ DR. ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

18 SIS Geckos earn AP Distinctions

Yu

Shin

Sablan

Park

Park

Nam

Linden

Li

Li

Lee

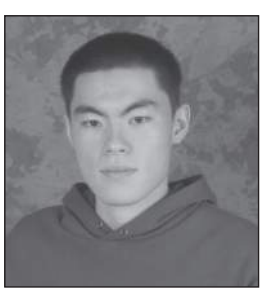
Lai

Kim

Jeong

Culp

Chung


Chen

Cai

Cabrera

Eighteen Saipan International School students who have taken the College Board's Advanced Placement Program have received scores that earn them college credit and/or advanced placement at university for successful performance on the exams.

According to an SIS news release last Tuesday, it said that Tiana Cabrera, Serin Chung, Huiwon Jeong, Seohee Lee, Tony Li, Yunwoo Nam, Claire Park, Yelin Park, Jesus Sablan, and Yebin Shin have all been named AP Scholars for having earned a score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

Linxi Cai, Sam Culp, Li Sha Lai, Guohao Li, and Jack Linden earned the added distinction of AP Scholar with Honors by averaging at least 3.25 on all AP exams and a 3 or higher on four or more exams. Finally, Xin Chen and Stephanie Kim and Kexuan Yu were all awarded with the top honor, AP Scholar with Distinction, scoring at least an average of at 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

Li Sha Lai was also the first SIS student for the class of 2024 to earn the AP International Diploma by passing 5 AP exams, from two world languages (including English), an exam that offers a global perspective, one exam from the STEM fields and one additional exam of choice.

Approximately 22% of the 2 million students taking AP exams worldwide performed at a high enough level to receive an AP Scholar Award.

"Our students have shown incredible resilience and dedication to their studies to maintain such great results during the Yutu recovery and the pandemic," commented SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder. "I am constantly in awe of our Geckos."

The AP program offers academically prepared students the chance to take rigorous, university-level courses during their high school years. Last May, 56 SIS AP students took a total of 136 Advanced Placement exams.

SIS continues to offer the largest selection of AP classes in the CNMI which included Language and Composition, Literature and Composition, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Statistics, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Human Geography, Chinese Language and Culture, Biology, Physics, Physics C: Mechanics, Precalculus, Seminar and Research.

SIS is also the first school in Micronesia that was authorized to offer the prestigious AP Capstone Diploma. This innovative program is designed to equip students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. This year SIS recognizes three Capstone Diploma recipients: Linxi Cai, Sam Culp, and Jesus Sablan. Tiana Cabrera and Kexuan Yu earned AP Seminar and Research Certificates.

The AP Capstone is a diploma program from College Board based on two yearlong AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. In the two-year course of study, students enhance their critical thinking, collaboration, analysis, evidence-based arguments, writing, presenting, and academic research skills.

AP Capstone Seminar is taught by Kimberlee Church in the 10th or 11th grades, followed by AP Capstone Research in Grade 12.

Angela Taflinger is the current Research teacher, replacing Whit Altizer.

The AP Capstone Program represents two years of hard work and responsibility by the students and staff. Their final research project is a yearlong research project on a topic selected by the student. It culminates in a 4000-to-5000-word academic research paper and a 15-20-minute presentation with an oral defense. ***(PR)***

UOG alumna selected for Obama Foundation's Leaders USA 2023

Just a few years after graduating from the University of Guam, Maria Dolojan has earned her place in a program for some of the nation's future leaders.

Dolojan, who graduated with a bachelor's in public administration and criminal justice from the School of Business and Public Administration in 2019, is one of 100 selected from across the nation to be a part of the inaugural cohort of the Obama Foundation's Leaders USA 2023.

She's grateful and proud to be representing Guam, the Filipino community, and the greater Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders community in the inaugural cohort of the Obama USA Leaders program, Dolojan said.

The U.S.-based "Obama Leaders" will learn skills and tools to accelerate positive and lasting change in their communities, according to the foundation.

Dolojan is the founder of Famalao'an Rights, whose advocacy is to help ensure girls and women in Guam can access affordable and timely reproductive health care options. In 2021, Teen Vogue published her opinion about the restrictive access to abortion in Guam, even for underage girls who were victims of rape.

She is based in New York City, working as a development associate for the University of Oxford North American office. In New York, she also developed a passion for empowering low-income and immigrant communities and fundraising for higher education.

Dolojan was raised in a family that had a humble beginning. Her mom was a housekeeper who died when she was 10, leaving her and two younger siblings in the sole care of her dad, who worked construction all his life to raise them.

At first, all she wanted was to get a college degree at UOG. Eventually, she gravitated toward public administration and criminal justice.

"It was through my UOG education that I had the privilege of being mentored by the best and the brightest academics in the region, and in doing so, empowering me to challenge the odds that were predetermined for me as someone from a low-income immigrant, single-parent household. The education I have received from UOG has helped me thrive in spaces I never thought I would be able to be in," Dolojan said.

She went on to earn her master's degree from the highly competitive Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, at New York University in New York City.

Dolojan looks to her mentors at UOG and the guidance they gave as pivotal to her path to success.

"I had many mentors and a strong support system at the University of Guam, but there were those who truly pushed me and inspired me throughout my academic journey and even beyond that during my professional career. Dr. Ansito Walter, Dr. Ron McNinch, professor Ron Aguon, Dr. Annette Taijeron Santos, and UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez have all shaped my experiences at the university in such an intentional and meaningful way," she said.

"None of what I have achieved in my career thus far would be possible if not for the mentorship, guidance, and education I received at UOG." ***(UOG)***

PHOTOS COURTESY MARIA DOLOJAN

Maria Dolojan, second from left, is seen in 2018 with University of Guam president emeritus Robert Underwood, first from left; former Guam delegate Madeleine Bordallo; Dr. Annette Santos, former dean of the School of Business and Public Administration at UOG; UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez; and public administration professors Dr. Ron McNinch and Dr. Ansito Walter. Dolojan received a congressional medal from Bordallo in March 2018.

Employers, job-seekers urged to apply for apprenticeship

The CNMI Department of Labor would like to promote the CNMI Registered Apprenticeship Program across the Marianas by informing possible participants and future employers of how it works and why they should take advantage of these opportunities. Especially with the touchback looming in the not-too-distant future, taking advantage of a Registered Apprenticeship Program can help your business in the long term by investing in U.S. and U.S. eligible workers who don't need visas to work in the CNMI.

1. What are the benefits to participants in becoming a registered apprentice?

The benefits to an individual who participates in a Registered Apprenticeship Program is that they earn while they learn. Which means, they will receive training by an identified mentor within the work sponsor/employer and get paid for it. An approved Work Process Schedule is used during this portion of the training, also known as the On-the-Job Learning component of the RAP. Additionally, the work process schedule includes an outline of courses that the apprentice must take and successfully complete, which is called the Related Training Instruction component of a RAP. These courses may be taken with a training provider and/or a postsecondary institution such as the Northern Marianas College. These courses may be fully subsidized (free!) by the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency through the Workforce, Innovation, and Opportunity Act's Title 1 programs. After the successful completion of their RAP, the apprentice receives a nationally-recognized credential from the U.S. Department of Labor.

2. What are the benefits to employers?

The benefits for employers include a 50% reimbursement of the apprentice's wage to cover the extraordinary cost associated with their RAP training. This is a great incentive to any employer who wants to participate in a RAP. The work process schedule can be catered to the employer's needs. In other words, employers can choose the courses in the apprentice's RTI, as well as the standards created for the OJL portion. There is no additional cost to the employer for participating in a RAP. This allows employers to upskill their current workforce while creating a pipeline of skilled workers. This little to no cost training approach counters the expenses of hiring foreign labor. Thus, this allows employers to start preparing for their future workforce needs especially with the anticipated phase out of CW-1 permits.

3. How does the CNMI benefit from apprentices in the workplace?

A Registered Apprenticeship Program offers an affordable training opportunity for individuals who may not have the resources to attend college. The cost of a Registered Apprenticeship Program to individuals is little to no cost which makes it more attractive, especially because they will be earning a wage at the same time. Employers also greatly benefit from this because they are building a skilled workforce without interrupting their operations and/or services. It also doesn't cost them anything other than the time and energy to train apprentices. This can greatly impact the CNMI's economy by building a sustainable workforce with employees who earn competitive wages making them afford the cost of living. The earnings they make will circulate into our economy instead of money going outside the CNMI which is often the case with our foreign workers. Businesses investing in their workforce by employing U.S. eligible workers can see a positive Return on Investment at the end of each RAP training. ***(PR)***

High court grants stay in rape case

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Supreme Court has granted a stay on the court proceedings against a man who is being accused of rape pending the court's decision on the defendant's previous petition to disqualify sitting Superior Court judges from hearing his case.

The Supreme Court has granted William Abraczinskas' second motion to stay court proceedings in his ongoing rape case as it rules on the defendant's previous petition to disqualify sitting Superior Court judges from hearing his case.

According to the Supreme Court's ruling, because the Commonwealth has not alleged irreparable harm should a stay be granted in favor of the defendant, a stay can be granted.

"In considering the balance of the equities, the Commonwealth has not alleged, nor is there any evidence of irreparable harm to the Commonwealth should the motion for a stay be granted. Accordingly, the court grants petitioner's motion, and orders the trial court to stay proceedings pending this court's decision on the writs of mandamus and prohibition," said the Supreme Court.

Abraczinskas has already filed twice his stay motion. The first motion he filed was denied because the Supreme Court stated that he must first file the motion in the Superior Court. After filing the motion for a stay with the Superior Court, Abraczinskas filed the same motion with the Supreme Court a second time.

"A motion for a stay of proceedings is proper because 'to wait for a ruling on the Request for Stay in the Superior Court' is 'impractical.' Under the standard set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court, to obtain a stay pending the disposition of a petition for a writ of mandamus, a petitioner must show 'a fair prospect that a majority of the court will vote to grant mandamus,' and that 'a likelihood of irreparable harm will result from the denial of a stay,'' Abraczinskas' motion stated. The Commonwealth did not file an opposition to the second motion. The High Court ruled in his favor the second time around.

The petition for a writ of mandamus and prohibition essentially seeks a Superior Court order to disqualify all its judges and to appoint a judge pro tempore in the case.

Abraczinskas is a law clerk for Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo and is a defendant in a rape case. He is accused of sexually assaulting a co-worker last April 8 and is facing charges of sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace,

The defendant recently filed a petition to disqualify all Superior Court judges from presiding over his case. Specifically, the defense requested the high court to issue writs of prohibition and mandamus, ordering Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho to make a finding consistent with the evidence presented at court, that the appearance of impropriety in this matter is unquestionable and that the trial court should recuse itself from this case.

The defense argues that the trial court order denying the defense's motion to disqualify all Superior Court judges from this case, was erroneous as a matter of law. Abraczinskas, instead, wants a special judge to be appointed to hear this case instead.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Ready, aim, regulate: The Supreme Court makes the right call on ghost guns, for now

Ghost guns aren't yet one of America's biggest threats to life and limb—handguns and especially illegal handguns are a bigger menace by far—but the country would be inviting bloodshed to wait until they climb the grim charts to try to contain their pernicious spread. This is why we've praised state Attorney General Tish James for doggedly pursuing those who illegally ship parts to build such firearms to New York, and why President Joe Biden was wise last year to direct the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to better police the ready-to-assemble weapons.

What makes legal firearms legal is that, even as plenty of pernicious loopholes undercut the government's best efforts, they're generally sold to individuals who've passed background checks. Under federal law, people are barred from purchasing or possessing guns if, among other things, they've been convicted of certain crimes or are subject to court orders related to domestic violence or a serious mental condition. States enforce their own restrictions, notwithstanding the horribly wrong Supreme Court ruling last summer in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association vs. Bruen.

Ghost guns, federal reports of which have increased 10-fold since 2016, take dead aim at that regime, promising to deliver the easy-to-assemble parts that, when quickly put together, can do just what a factory-made, legally bought firearm can do, only without a background check or a proper serial number that allows them to be traced. Biden's ATF aimed to change that, classifying "buy build shoot" kits as guns—which they are, every bit as much as flat-packed, assemble-at-home IKEA furniture is furniture. From that, it follows that those who make the kits are gun-makers, who must be federally licensed as such, and those who buy them are gun buyers.

Of course, the arm-everyone-everywhere lobby challenged the ATF rules in court, and of course, a judge interpreting the Second Amendment as sloppily as the Supreme Court did in Bruen vacated the rules nationwide in June. Rightly arguing that Texas Federal Judge Reed O'Connor's ruling, which asserts that "a weapons part kit is not a firearm," risked "irreparably harming the public and the government by reopening the floodgates to the tide of untraceable ghost guns flowing into our Nation's communities," the U.S. solicitor general urged the high court to intervene and let the Biden rules stand for the time being.

The Supreme Court, in a 5-4 order on its so-called shadow docket, agreed. The case will still be heard on the merits by a federal appeals court and perhaps ultimately by The Nine, but until then, the new rules remain.

Last year, the NYPD seized more than 430 ghost guns, 25 times more than it recovered in 2017. Earlier this year, a 16-month joint investigation yielded the takedown of a ghost gun and narcotics trafficking ring. Criminals hungry for hard-to-track weapons can try to get them from straw buyers, or shave the serial numbers off

See Ready on Page 9

What's tragic about the coup in Niger

By ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD
Chicago Tribune

Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is the author of The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age.

Niger's coup last month was the eighth military takeover in Africa since 2020. Most occurred in West African states, which have faced rising extremist violence for years. Niger was among them.

Affiliates and offshoots of both al-Qaida and the Islamic State found fertile ground in impoverished and neglected communities in Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. They've been met by armies supplied and strengthened by Western powers hoping to stem the tide of terrorism in the region.

The United States and France were the primary partners, providing weapons, military education, combat training, intelligence and direct counterterrorism operations for more than a decade. Security partners have spent billions of dollars, but violence has only grown.

Across Africa, terrorist violence has increased by 300% during that time. The death toll across West Africa was up by 75% last year and looks set to keep increasing. In Burkina Faso and Mali, the military leaders who recently seized control claimed to be doing so to restore order, yet both countries have seen more violence since.

But Niger was starting to peel away from the pack. In a dangerous region where conflict is on the rise and democracy on the backfoot, Niger was taking small steps the other way.

Niger had its first-ever democratic transition of power in 2021. President Mohamed Bazoum spent the next two years recalibrating the country's approach toward dealing with insecurity.

I shouldn't overstate the successes. They were small and, clearly, reversible. But they represented a shift in priorities that seemed to be gaining ground.

Bazoum maintained a strong security partnership with the United States, but he also understood that military solutions were insufficient to address the country's instability. The population's grievances were real and their needs unmet. Many were politically and economically excluded. The government's armed forces were often implicated in abuses against civilians themselves. This all made for receptive audiences when insurgent groups came recruiting.

This reality isn't lost on the United States, which routinely invokes the "three Ds" of diplomacy, development and defense, in recognition that long-term stability requires a holistic approach. But thanks to a gross disparity in resources and a national security culture that places greater stock in security solutions than soft power, U.S. military tools and assistance overshadow, and often undermine, efforts that can improve governance.

Western cooperation has focused on strengthening security services. While that approach sounds logical, it can undermine the relative power of civilian governments in countries with weak institutions and government services. This can make it harder for them to address the underlying grievances that help fuel insurgencies. In some cases, it even strengthens the military's case for taking control. None of this is good for long-term stability.

For years, Niger prioritized its partners' security objectives to the detriment of democratic accountability. Bazoum sought to rebalance that approach, with greater focus on improving government services to the most marginalized. His government engaged those who had joined extremist groups to determine what was driving them. He promised dialogue and reconciliation, even inviting emissaries of the Islamic State-Sahel to join local peace talks. Violence has since declined in those areas. He's made concessions, like freeing prisoners and agreeing not to attack groups that agree to do the same.

The coup leaders criticized this as weak. After all, labeling insurgents as terrorists can leave little room for compromise.

But this approach had promise. Military responses have rarely succeeded in destroying terrorist groups—only about 7% of cases historically. More often, success comes from a combination of policing, intelligence and political inclusion to address grievances that fuel insurgency.

There were signs it could have been working too. Fewer people were killed in Niger in the first six months of 2023 than in the same period of any year since 2018. Civilian deaths by state armed forces were also down.

Some of West Africa's coastal states are taking a similar approach to preempt a rise in extremism within their borders. For example, Côte d'Ivoire has focused on improving infrastructure and basic services in border communities, and this appears to have slowed the advance of terrorism there.

But Niger's powerful security forces might have seen this rebalance as a threat too. Bazoum was reportedly curbing the authority of army commanders and had launched anti-corruption programs that created enemies. He was also scrutinizing the budget of the presidential guard force, whose leader, Gen. Abdourahamane Tchiani, led the coup.

Military leaders, empowered by years of a military-first approach to Niger's struggles, didn't want to cede ground to a civilian-led approach. Maybe they were convinced they were better suited to the task, or maybe they just refused to have their control diminished.

It's impossible to know if Bazoum would have succeeded, but extremist groups will undoubtedly take advantage of Niger's political instability. So this coup will likely make matters worse in a country where things might have been getting better.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

With the wreckage of addiction all around us, society needs a shift

By CARLTON WINFREY
The Seattle Times

Charnay DuCrest is living her best life.

The Tacoma, Washington, professional has a rewarding career helping people beat drug addiction. She's a mother, and will pursue her master's degree this fall.

It's a life that her parents, a teacher and a musician, had hoped for her at birth. But the hopes quickly fell into ruin by a wrecking ball called opioid addiction.

Before her life spiraled out of control, DuCrest ran track and sang in the choir at Gonzaga Prep in Spokane. Less than 10 years later she would find herself going from tents to dingy hotels to homelessness, relationship to relationship, arrests, lying and stealing—even from her parents—all to feed a powerful addiction.

Opioid addiction and overdose is a national and local crisis, one that local health care workers, policymakers and educators need to aggressively tackle. But it will take time, a lot of money and a cultural shift before society treats this epidemic not like a temporary problem, but a killer of families, lives and potential.

How serious is it?

There were 1,001 overdose deaths in King County in 2022 and the record is on track to be broken this year with 800 overdoses as of Tuesday, mostly from fentanyl. By the end of 2024, more people will have died of opioid overdose in King County in the previous three years than were killed in the attack of Sept. 11, 2001.

Already, in just seven months of this year, more lives have ended by fentanyl overdose in King County alone than by gun violence statewide in 2021 and 2022 combined.

Before the judgment starts, these lives were not the "dregs of society." They were young people experimenting; 20-somethings taking what they thought was a prescribed painkiller from a "friend" only for their families to discover after their deaths it was fentanyl; and those struggling for years with addiction like Charnay DuCrest.

To talk to 37-year old DuCrest today, few clues hint at a life once debased by opioids.

Like many who struggled with addiction, DuCrest's substance abuse began with alcohol as a teenager, a battle she saw her parents fight. Yet, she managed to excel in cross-country and volleyball, even into her days at Montana State University-Northern where she majored in premed. "I kind of cruised through high school until college, where I had a penchant for hanging out and partying," DuCrest recalled. Heavy drinking led to Alcoholics Anonymous at the urging of her father.

She discovered pain pills in college after breaking her leg.

"I had pills for three months in 2010 and when they quit giving them to me I went straight to IV morphine. That lasted four months before it all fell apart."

She checked herself into the hospital for treatment only to test positive for HIV.

"I left the hospital and went to get high," she said, using her 401(k) savings from a previous retail job.

Then came more morphine and Suboxone and then heroin.

She overdosed three times: once with a boyfriend who took her to the hospital where she was revived; the second time a friend found her in the bathroom with a needle stuck in her neck. "By this time my veins in my arm were shot." Her friend drove her to the hospital and dumped her off at the front, where emergency personnel gave her Narcan.

The third OD happened when she and her husband were hanging out. She told her husband afterward, "Man, that messed up my high. That's all I cared about, not the fact that I had just had an overdose in front of him. But that being high was more important than being alive."

Many who advocate for lenient drug laws often say jail won't fix the problem, or that we can't arrest our way out of addiction. But arrests can interrupt a cycle of abuse and, when it comes to drugs like fentanyl, an arrest can save a life.

I spent many years volunteering with Mariners Inn, a homeless shelter in Michigan for men battling addiction. Their stories were heart-wrenching, yet inspiring. They often ended with, "If I hadn't been arrested, I would have lost …" fill in the blank: My job. My friends. My family. My life.

Getting arrested may work for some, but not all. The mere shock and embarrassment can push some users to seek help. For others entry into the legal system creates another set of problems, including a record that can affect employment and housing.

The state Legislature this year clarified how law enforcement is to intersect with public drug use and possession. Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell wants the City Council to adopt the state law that makes the possession and public use of illegal drugs gross misdemeanors. He also wants the police department to utilize referrals to treatment and diversion programs as the preferred response but also be able to make arrests when warranted.

DuCrest knows she's one of the lucky ones. She said one of her arrests for stealing from her parents—orchestrated by them as part of an intervention—left her angry at the time.

"Being in jail really helped but also made me susceptible to overdose," said DuCrest, who earned a bachelor's in communication and is now a health promotion coordinator for the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. "It does disrupt it and give you a chance to get help, but criminalizing addiction is not a solution. People lose their stuff or the place where they rent and become homeless."

About 90% of people with addiction never seek treatment mainly due to fear of judgment and shame, according to James Apa, communications director at Public Health—Seattle & King County. For any community to get a handle on the epidemic, getting rid of that stigma is a must.

"The biggest thing we can do is have compassion for individuals who are suffering from a disease that is ultimately fatal and destroys lives," said Sean Soth, director of Health Integration & Innovation for Evergreen Treatment Services. "And understand it's really difficult as a human to shift how we behave and change our lives drastically. That's what we're asking of people who use drugs. We assume that it is the individual's problem. That it's a moral failure and we don't want to believe that it can be us or our kids that is impacted next."

DuCrest credits Swedish Hospital and a Tacoma sober house for her recovery.

So looking back, what message would Charnay DuCrest of today have for Charnay, the college student of years ago?

"Hold on. You're going to have some rough times but it's going to end up really good. Everything I've gone through has made me the person I am. And I love my life. So just hold on. It'll be OK."

To bring back the office, bring back lunch

By ALLISON SCHRAGER
Bloomberg Opinion

Allison Schrager is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering economics. A senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, she is author of* An Economist Walks Into a Brothel: And Other Unexpected Places to Understand Risk.

It has been nearly two years since corporate America reopened, and employers are still struggling to get people back into the office. Just ask Jamie Dimon, CEO of JP Morgan Chase, who has been pushing for in-office-work, yet 30% of his workers remain hybrid and he continues to face pushback.

So allow me to make a modest proposal. This fall, to get people back to the office, U.S. employers need to do something radical, something bold, something (gasp) very French: They need to buy their employees lunch—a proper lunch, in a restaurant.

There are no sad desk salads in France. Eating in the workplace is prohibited. Since 1962, French employees have received meal vouchers as part of their compensation. The vouchers used to be paper tickets, but now they are usually loaded on to a plastic card, which can be used to buy lunch at local restaurants. Both employers and employees contribute to the card—the former tax-free—with employers paying 50% to 60% of the lunch's value.

The voucher can be used for a meal up to 19 euros, though that limit was doubled during the pandemic to help struggling restaurants. The number of meals an employee gets each month depends on the number of days he or she works; one meal voucher can be provided for each full workday, provided the meal occurs during the workday.

Like most efficiency-focused Americans, I always looked upon this system with a mixture of amusement and horror. I saw it as the sort of thing that can only happen in France. A law against eating at your desk? Talk about uncivilized. I prefer a quick lunch, thank you, so I can finish work and get home sooner. And as nice as a free lunch sounds, benefits are never really free; they usually mean a lower salary. Once again, thank you but I'd prefer the cash.

But I am rethinking my aversion to the French lunch voucher system because I fear the U.S. workplace is stuck in what we economists call a sub-optimal equilibrium. Working together, in person, is important for training and workplace culture—especially for younger workers who require mentoring. Over time, working from home even a few days a week can mean lower productivity and less engagement with work.

I also worry about what working from home does to a society that is increasingly isolated and lonely. Not to mention all the struggling businesses in America's downtowns. Foot traffic in downtown San Francisco is at only 32% of its 2019 level. New York is at 67%. Office vacancies remain elevated. Despite pleas and even threats from their bosses—many of whom are also WFH, at least part of the time—or free food in the office pantry, not enough people are going back.

So what if there were such a thing as a free lunch—not metaphorical but actual? A lunch that lasts an hour (maybe more) may be just the incentive you need. Especially at a nice restaurant in the middle of the day. It makes you feel so sophisticated. More important, it will involve making plans to get you out of the house. And while you shouldn't be required to eat with your colleagues, maybe you will want to, which will improve morale and help restore the connections lost in the years of working from home. Perhaps you will even invite your junior coworkers.

True, there may be some productivity losses. Some people will take lunch breaks that are too long, especially if wine is involved. But working from home indefinitely might mean even more lost productivity. And any losses from lunch should be measured against the economic boost it would provide the restaurant sector.

The voucher system should be a little different than it is in France. Employee contributions to the voucher should be optional. And the vouchers should only be used in restaurants located in business districts, or near the workplace, for a sit-down meal. The tax incentive would be a nice bonus, but it's not necessary, especially with growing public debt. Instead, participating restaurants may offer discounts or voucher-lunch specials if they want the business.

I realize this is all getting expensive. So employers needn't offer a free lunch for every day worked. This is America, after all. It is your right as a citizen to eat at your desk.

READY

From page 8

black-market guns, or go online and order components to their heart's content. No matter which path they choose, authorities charged with protecting the public should be trying to thwart them. More unlicensed guns in the hands of more people who treat the law with contempt means more chaos, more crime and more death.

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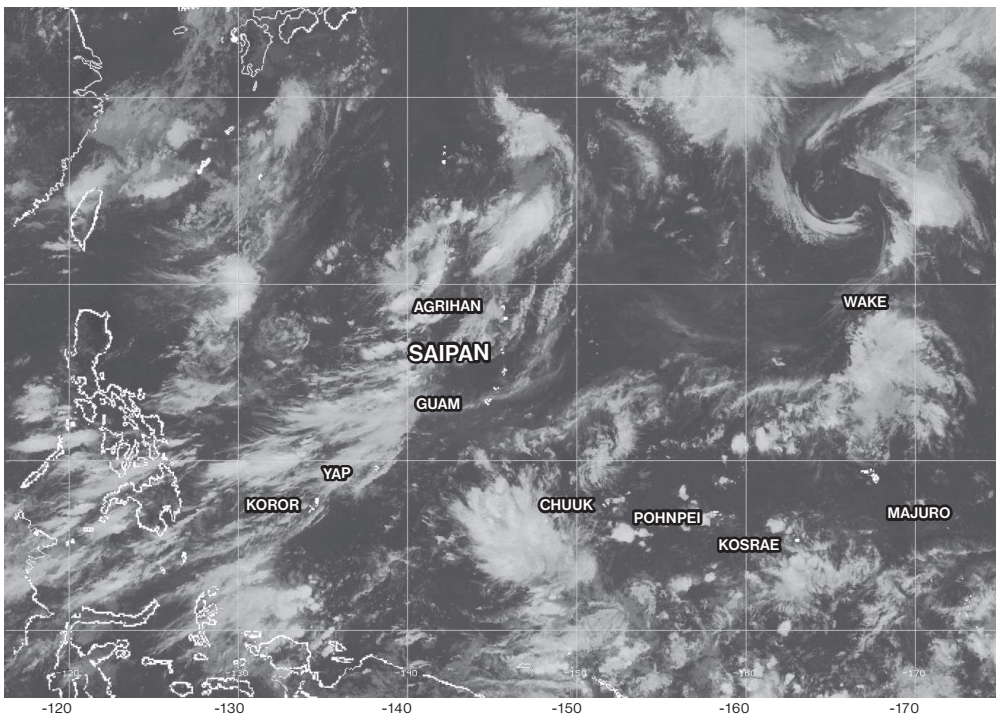
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy
88° 74°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:22 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar shows spotty showers across the coverage area. Surface winds are light. Combined seas are running 4 to 6 feet. A weak circulation is over eastern Chuuk State.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:29 AM	7:22 PM	-
Friday	7:16 AM	7:57 PM	-
Saturday	8:02 AM	8:30 PM	-
Sunday	8:48 AM	9:03 PM	-
Monday	9:35 AM	9:37 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	99° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	89° / 76°
London	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 64°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	76° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 41°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	84° / 71°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	84° / 70°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorms	93° / 73°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81° / 66°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	92° / 74°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
2:27 AM	Low Tide	1.20
7:26 AM	High Tide	1.92
2:36 PM	Low Tide	0.10
9:19 PM	High Tide	1.88

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:55AM	8:45AM	1, 5
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	4, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

3Hi-Res Designs enters T-shirt sublimation business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO
3Hi-Res Designs is located next to Yu Bo Corp. tire shop along Beach Road in Oleai.

MARK RABAGO
Northern Marianas Insurance Association president Gol Corpuz shows off a customized eco-bag that 3Hi-Res Designs made for the group's 40th anniversary.

3Hi-Res Designs has made life easier for people looking for customized T-shirts after introducing a T-shirt sublimation service earlier this year.

Graphic designer Michael Temperante, who co-owns the company with wife Ruby Gozon, said their T-shirt sublimation service was due to a lot of inquiries from their customers.

"The sublimation T-shirt business came about when a lot of people started asking me about it. First, I wasn't interested as at that time we were customizing T-shirts using silk screens and digital printing."

He, however, admitted that the former was quite labor intensive and the latter resulted in a lot of ink wastage.

According to the internet, T-shirt sublimation is made when an image or design is created on a computer and printed onto sublimation paper using sublimation ink.

The printed design is then placed onto the T-shirt and using a heat press, the design is permanently transferred to the material using heat and pressure.

Temperante said before he introduced their T-shirt sublimation business, orders on Saipan were outsourced from off-island.

"So I told myself if you have to have it made in, say the Philippines, how long does it take for the order to be produced and shipped to Saipan? That's when I thought why not have a T-shirt sublimation business on the island to cut the lead time as well as ultimately help the local economy," he said.

Aside from the reduced price due to eliminating the shipping cost, another advantage of 3Hi-Res Designs' T-shirt sublimation business is it helps customers with the propensity to order at the last minute.

As well as making giveaway shirts for corporate events, 3Hi-Res Designs have also taken orders for long-sleeve hoodies for fishing derbies, cycling tops, and customized team shirt from the Saipan Electronic Darts League, which easily is the biggest sporting competition on island with more than 100 divisions encompassing over 700 players.

Soon, Temperante said, they will be making a full set of basketball jerseys—tops and bottoms—at a fraction of the cost of off-island manufacturers.

As for the T-shirt materials, 3Hi-Res Designs uses polyester shirts ordered from the U.S., China, South Korea, and the Philippines and the sizes range from extra small to 5XL.

"Design comes from the concept of the customer and I improve on it and then finalize with the customer, which is also an advantage of an on-island design business. Deliverable from concept order to delivery is around 3-7 days and the costs range from $18 to $25. The price also goes down further when you order in bulk," said Temperante.

Since they offered the service, Temperante said business has been booming and so far the largest order they've received is for 170 T-shirts.

3Hi-Res Designs started more due to necessity in 2009 in a small room at Marianas Business Plaza, according to Temperante.

"My wife lost her job and I told her why don't we expand what I know about printing. Growing up my dad was a visual artist and I did T-shirt silk-screening on the side so I'm familiar with the industry."

But instead of making custom T-shirts right away, Temperante and his partners started small by first making calling cards for friends using a very small and second-hand table printer.

"It turns out, my wife was good with finances and after a few years we were able to save money and invested in better equipment like more advanced printers and moved on to bigger jobs."

From calling cards, 3Hi-Res Designs soon was cranking out creative designs for wall clocks, mugs, and other souvenirs for gifts and giveaways for parties.

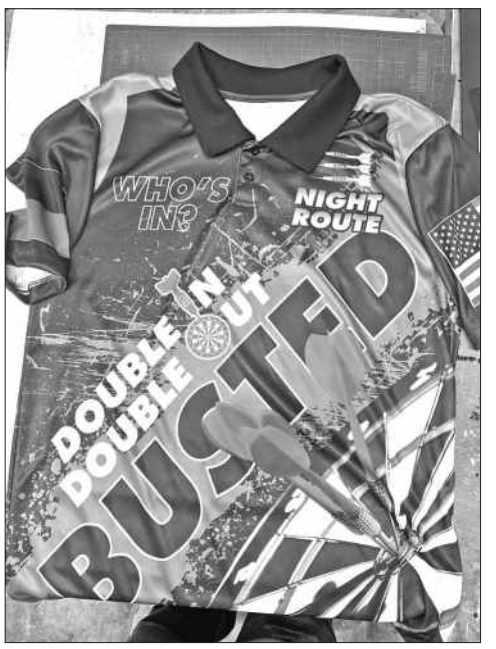
"Then I introduced large banners for events for companies and that was around 2015. At that point, business was doing great and we finally were able to buy new and branded top-of-the-line printers like Roland and Epson brands, which are photo quality printers," Temperante added on the growth of the design and printing company.

From the beginning until now, 3Hi-Res Designs' guiding principle is to always keep their customers happy.

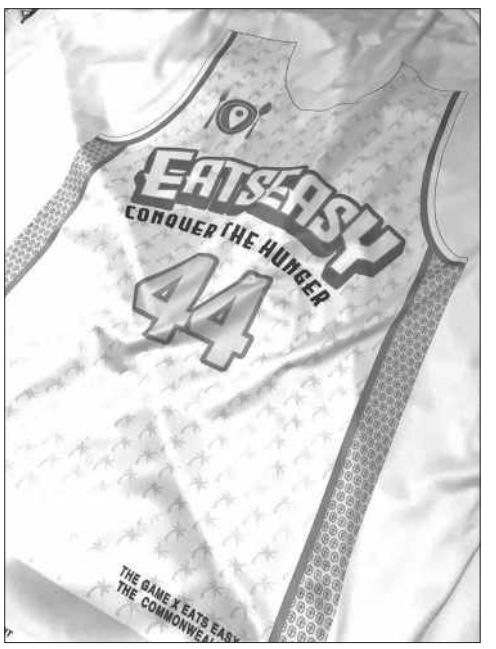
"I never want to disappoint any customer. It's actually OK if we earn just 5 cents, break even, or even lose money as long as our customer is always satisfied," he said.

3Hi-Res Designs is located next to Yu Bo Corp. tire shop along Beach Road in Oleai. It's open from Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm, and Saturday, 8am to 12pm.

For more information, call (670) 234-1137 or (670) 989-7158. You can also email 3hires.designs@gmail.com or reach them on Facebook. 3Hi-Res Designs will also soon launch a website (3hres.com) and a mobile app.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
3Hi-Res Designs' sublimation T-shirt design for the Saipan Electronic Darts Association.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
3Hi-Res Designs will also be making a full set of basketball jerseys soon.

Retail sales rose solidly last month in sign consumers still spending freely

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans increased their purchases at retailers last month—for clothing, dining out, online goods and other areas—in a sign that solid consumer spending is still powering a resilient U.S. economy.

Retail sales rose a better-than-expected 0.7% in July from June, according to the Commerce Department's report Tuesday. The gain was higher than a revised 0.3% increase the previous month and marked four straight months of increases. The figure also surpassed the 0.2% increase in consumer prices last month, indicating that shoppers are spending at a healthy pace.

Analysts noted that spending on Amazon Prime Day, the online juggernaut's big two-day sales event that took place earlier last month, also helped boost online sales.

Excluding autos and gas, sales rose a solid 1%. A closely watched category of retail sales that excludes auto dealers, gas stations and building materials and feeds into the gross domestic product jumped 1% last month compared to the prior month, the biggest move in six months, analysts said.

"Maybe it's a one-off, but Americans put aside their penny-pinching ways and spent big on food and fun in July," said Robert Frick, corporate economist with Navy Federal Credit Union, in a note published Tuesday.

Department stores posted a 0.9% increase, while clothing and accessories stores had a 1% gain. Sales at sporting goods stores and hobby stores rose 1.5%. At restaurants, sales rose 1.4%, while online sales increased 1.9%.

But higher interest rates are weighing on economic activities that are highly dependent on credit, like sales of homes, vehicles, furniture and electronics, according to Bill Adams, chief economist for Comerica Bank in Dallas. Furniture and home furnishings stores and electronics stores remained weak, registering declines. And sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers also were down from the prior month.

Still, the uptick reflects the economy's resiliency despite a still challenging economic environment of still high prices and higher interest rates that make borrowing on credit cards and getting a mortgage for a home more expensive. Yet spending has been volatile this year after surging nearly 3% in January. Sales tumbled in February and March before recovering in April and May.

The report comes as inflation has cooled but not enough to meet the Federal Reserve's target rate.

GRMC announces Wielaard as interim CEO

DEDEDO, Guam—Guam Regional Medical City announces its interim chief executive officer Dr. Alexander "Beau" Wielaard. Prior to his appointment by GRMC's Board of Directors, Wielaard served as GRMC's senior vice president, chief medical officer, and emergency medicine physician.

Wielaard

GRMC senior vice president, chief human resources officer Charlotte D. Huntsman said "Dr. Beau will continue to also serve as the CMO. Along with the rest of the executive leadership team, Wielaard will ensure that GRMC continues to move in this positive trajectory and align with our vision to be 'the premier healthcare system in Guam and in the Micronesia Region' and our mission of 'treating and caring for all our patients and their families as we would a beloved family member.'"

Wielaard relocated with his family to Guam in 2016, working at both GMH and GRMC in the Emergency Department. He joined GRMC on a full-time basis in 2018 and was a core developer of GRMC's institutional response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He served as the chairman of GRMC's Department of Emergency Medicine from 2019 until his promotion to chief medical officer in 2020. ***(PR)***

Nation

Death toll from devastating Maui fire reaches 106

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP)—A mobile morgue unit arrived Tuesday to help Hawaii officials working painstakingly to identify remains, as Maui County released the first names of people killed in the wildfire that all but incinerated the historic town of Lahaina a week ago and raised the death toll to 106.

» As county begins releasing names

The county named two victims, Lahaina residents Robert Dyckman, 74, and Buddy Jantoc, 79, adding in a statement that a further three victims have been identified. Those names will be released once the county has identified their next of kin.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services deployed a team of coroners, pathologists and technicians along with exam tables, X-ray units and other equipment to identify victims and process remains, said Jonathan Greene, the agency's deputy assistant secretary for response.

"It's going to be a very, very difficult mission," Greene said. "And patience will be incredibly important because of the number of victims."

The county said in a statement that were among the dead, the first people so named.

A week after a blaze tore through historic Lahaina, many survivors started moving into hundreds of hotel rooms set aside for displaced locals, while donations of food, ice, water and other essentials poured in.

Crews using cadaver dogs have scoured about 32% of the area, the County of Maui said in a statement Tuesday. The governor asked for patience as authorities became overwhelmed with requests to visit the burn area.

Maui Police Chief John Pelletier renewed an appeal for families with missing relatives to provide DNA samples. So far 41 samples have been submitted, the county statement said, and 13 DNA profiles have been obtained from remains.

AP

Vicente Ruboi receives a hug after performing a blessing to greeting the day Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023, in Kihei, Hawaii.

The governor warned that scores more bodies could be found. The wildfires, some of which have not yet been fully contained, are already the deadliest in the U.S. in more than a century. Their cause was under investigation.

When asked by Hawaii News Now if children are among the missing, Green said Tuesday: "Tragically, yes. ... When the bodies are smaller, we know it's a child."

He described some of the sites being searched as "too much to share or see from just a human perspective."

Another complicating factor, Green said, is that storms with rain and high winds were forecast for the weekend. Officials are mulling whether to "preemptively power down or not for a short period of time, because right now all of the infrastructure is weaker."

A week after the fires started, some residents remained with intermittent power, unreliable cellphone service and uncertainty over where to get assistance. Some people walked periodically to a seawall, where phone connections were strongest, to make calls. Flying low off the coast, a single-prop airplane used a loudspeaker to blare information about where to get water and supplies.

Victoria Martocci, who lost her scuba business and a boat, planned to travel to her storage unit in Kahalui from her Kahana home Wednesday to stash documents and keepsakes given to her by a friend whose house burned. "These are things she grabbed, the only things she could grab, and I want to keep them safe for her," Martocci said.

The local power utility has already faced criticism for not shutting off power as strong winds buffeted a parched area under high risk for fire. It's not clear whether the utility's equipment played any role in igniting the flames.

Hawaiian Electric Co. Inc. President and CEO Shelee Kimura said many factors go into a decision to cut power, including the impact on people who rely on specialized medical equipment and concerns that a shutoff in the fire area would have knocked out water pumps.

Green has said the flames raced as fast as a mile (1.6 kilometers) every minute in one area, fueled by dry grass and propelled by strong winds from a passing hurricane.

Trump enjoys strong support among Republicans

NEW YORK (AP)—After every new indictment, Donald Trump has boasted that his standing among Republicans only improves—and he has a point.

Nearly two-thirds of Republicans—63%—now say they want the former president to run again, according to new polling from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's up slightly from the 55% who said the same in April when Trump began facing a series of criminal charges. Seven in 10 Republicans now have a favorable opinion of Trump, an uptick from the 60% who said so two months ago.

But in a crucial warning sign for the former president and his supporters, Trump faces glaring vulnerabilities heading into a general election, with many Americans strongly dug in against him. While most Republicans—74%—say they would support him in November 2024, 53% of Americans say they would definitely not support him if he is the nominee. Another 11% say they would probably not support him in November 2024.

The findings bolster the arguments of some of Trump's rivals for the Republican nomination who laud his tenure as president, but warn that he can't win in a general election when he must compete for votes beyond the GOP base. Trump lost the popular vote in the 2016 campaign, attaining the presidency only by winning a majority in the Electoral College. He lost to Democrat Joe Biden by an even larger 7 million-vote margin in 2020, a defeat he has falsely attributed to widespread voter fraud.

Some Republicans who are pushing the party to move past Trump argue his standing with the broader public has only deteriorated since the last presidential election, dragged down by his role in sparking the violent Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol and the constant turmoil that surrounds him, epitomized by his unprecedented legal woes.

"There is a meaningful number of voters who have voted for Trump twice and can't vote for him again after all of this," said Sarah Longwell, an anti-Trump Republican strategist who has been running focus groups with GOP voters.

A spokesman for Trump's campaign did not respond to a request for comment on the dynamics described in the poll, which was conducted before Trump was charged late Monday in Georgia in a sprawling 98-page indictment that accuses him and 18 others of a criminal conspiracy to overturn the results of that state's 2020 election. He now faces a whopping 91 total felony charges in cases brought in Georgia, New York, Washington, D.C., and Florida.

Adding to Trump's headwinds, the poll found that opposition to Biden's reelection is not as deeply entrenched. The 80-year-old president, who faces only nominal rivals in a Democratic primary, faces skepticism among voters, particularly over his age. But just 43% of Americans say they would definitely not support him in a general election, with another 11% saying they probably wouldn't.

Meanwhile, the charges in Georgia and Washington have turned Trump's attention back to his grievances about the last election—something aides and allies have spent months urging Trump to limit focusing on at his events.

Hours after the Georgia indictment was made public, he announced plans on his social media site to hold an event next Monday at his New Jersey golf club to unveil a new "report" that would offer "irrefutable" proof of election fraud.

Federal and state election officials and Trump's own attorney general have said there is no credible evidence that the election was tainted. The former president's allegations of fraud were also roundly rejected by courts, including by judges Trump appointed. And in Georgia, the state at the center of his latest indictment, three recounts were conducted after the election—each of which confirmed his loss to Biden.

While Trump's appeals resonate among GOP voters, they are less popular among the independents and swing voters he will need to win over in a general election and were blamed for some GOP losses in the 2022 midterm elections.

McCarthy floats stopgap funding to prevent gov't shutdown

WASHINGTON—Congressional leaders are pitching a stopgap government funding package to avoid a federal shutdown after next month, acknowledging the House and Senate are nowhere near agreement on spending levels to keep federal operations running.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy raised the idea of a months-long funding package, known as a continuing resolution, to House Republicans on a members-only call Monday evening, according to those familiar with the private session and granted anonymity to discuss it.

On Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the two leaders had spoken about such a temporary measure. It would extend federal funding operations into December to allow more time to work on the annual spending bills.

"I thought it was a good thing that he recognized that we need a CR," Schumer, D-N.Y., told reporters on a call.

"We hope that our House Republicans will realize that any funding resolution has to be bipartisan or they will risk shutting down the government," he said.

A stopgap measure that would keep government offices running past the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year is a typical strategy while the Republican-held House and Democrat-held Senate try to iron out a long-term budget agreement. The government's new fiscal year begins on Oct. 1, when funding approval is needed to avert closures of federal offices.

But this year, the task may prove more politically difficult. McCarthy will need to win over a large portion of his Republican colleagues to pass the stopgap bill or risk political blowback from staunch conservatives if he leaves them behind and cuts a bipartisan deal with Democrats.

Conservatives, including many from the House Freedom Caucus, are usually loathe to get behind short-term funding measures as they push for steeper spending cuts, using the threat of a shutdown as leverage.

Foretelling the political dynamics ahead, many in Congress are bracing for a shutdown.

"It's clear President Biden and Speaker McCarthy want a government shutdown, so that's what Congress will do after we return in September. Everyone should plan accordingly," Republican Rep. Tony Gonzales posted on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, shortly after the Monday Republican call.

Democrats alongside President Joe Biden don't necessarily want a shutdown, but they would be quick to blame Republicans for instigating it — arguing that Republicans are the ones driving for spending reductions.

All sides had agreed to budget levels during the recent debt ceiling negotiations when Biden and McCarthy struck a deal that established topline spending levels. But McCarthy's GOP majority rejects those amounts.

White House deputy press secretary Olivia Dalton was asked Tuesday on Air Force One if Biden is worried about a government shutdown.

"We worked in good faith to negotiate a bipartisan budget agreement a couple of months ago," Dalton said.

"We've upheld our end of the bargain. They've upheld theirs, so far. We can expect that to continue."

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

N. Korea: US soldier crossed border after becoming disillusioned with America

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea asserted Wednesday that a U.S. soldier who bolted across the heavily armed Korean border last month did so after becoming disillusioned with the inequality of American society and racial discrimination in its Army. It was North Korea's first official confirmation of detention of Pvt. Travis King, who had served in South Korea and sprinted into the North while on a civilian tour of a border village on July 18. He became the first American confirmed to be detained in the North in nearly five years. The official Korean Central News Agency, citing an investigation by relevant North Korean authorities, reported that King told them he decided to enter North Korea because he "harbored ill feelings against inhuman mistreatment and racial discrimination within the U.S. Army." The report said King also expressed his willingness to seek refuge in North Korea or a third country, saying he "was disillusioned at the unequal American society." KCNA is a propaganda outlet and its content is carefully calibrated to reflect North Korea's official line that the United States is an evil adversary.

Indonesian protesters begin hunger strike as bill to protect domestic workers stalls

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)–Indonesian domestic workers and activists began a hunger strike on Monday to protest against the parliament's delay in passing a bill to protect domestic workers.

Sunrise-to-sunset fasting protests were happening simultaneously in the capital, Jakarta, and other major cities and will be held every day until the bill is passed, said Lita Anggraini of the National Advocacy Network for Domestic Workers. "The hunger strike reflects the situation of many domestic workers in this country who don't have protection from the government," Anggraini said. "We call on lawmakers to immediately pass the domestic worker protection bill into law. The more delays, the more workers who will experience violence and discrimination." In Jakarta, about 40 fasting activists from the Domestic Workers Alliance sat under tents in front of the parliament compound. They held clocks, baby pacifiers, napkins and other cleaning equipment, as well as chains they said symbolized the challenges that domestic servants face in Indonesia.

Blast at hotel in eastern Afghanistan kills 3, wounds 7

ISLAMABAD (AP)—An explosion ripped through a hotel in Afghanistan's eastern province of Khost on Monday, killing at least three people and wounding seven others, police said. The blast occurred at a city hotel frequented by Afghan people and refugees from Pakistan's former militant stronghold of North Waziristan bordering Afghanistan, said Mustaghfir Gurbaz, a police spokesperson in Khost. He said officers were investigating to determine what caused the blast and who was behind it. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, though Afghanistan's Taliban government has blamed the regional affiliate of the Islamic State group—known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province—for previous attacks. Gurbaz provided no information about the Pakistani refugees staying at the hotel. Authorities in Pakistan have said members of the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP, are hiding in Khost and elsewhere in Afghanistan. TTP is a separate group but is a close ally of the Afghan Taliban, which seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO troops were in the final stages of their pullout from the country after 20 years of war.

Pakistan's caretaker PM sworn in as people celebrate Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Former Pakistani Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was sworn in on Monday as the country's prime minister to head a caretaker government that will oversee parliamentary elections during one of the country's worst economic crises. Kakar, who is comparatively new to politics and is close to the powerful military, has represented his Baluchistan province in the Senate since 2018. President Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to him inside a white marble palace known as the Presidency in a brief ceremony. Kakar quit as the head of his small Baluchistan Awami Party on Sunday and resigned as a senator after being named by outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and opposition leader Raza Riaz to oversee the vote and run the administration's day-to-day affairs until the people elect a new government. It is normal practice in Pakistan to appoint a caretaker government for the election period. Under the constitution, the election should be held in the next 90 days. The swearing-in took place as Pakistan celebrated its 77th Independence Day amid deepening political turmoil, which began after the ouster of former Prime Minister Imran Khan last year. Pakistan gained independence when the departing British left India and split the subcontinent in 1947.

Former Malaysian PM acquitted of four graft charges

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Former Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin was acquitted by the high court of four corruption charges on Tuesday, just days after his opposition bloc expanded its influence in local elections. Muhyiddin, 76, said the high court ruled in favor of his application to overturn four charges of abusing his power to obtain 232.5 million ringgit ($50 million) in bribes for his Bersatu party. He was charged in March and still faces three charges of money laundering involving 200 million ringgit ($43 million). "From the start, I have said that these are politically motivated charges. I have not done anything wrong ... and today it has been proven that these were false allegations," he told reporters outside the courthouse. His lawyer, Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, said the court agreed with the defense contention that the charges were defective legally and lacked details on how the offenses were committed. With the collapse of the four main charges, Teh said they were confident the other three money-laundering charges would not stand. The graft charges revolved around the award of contracts to selected ethnic Malay contractors allegedly in return for bribes, and approving an appeal by a business tycoon over the cancellation of his tax exemption. Prosecutors said they would appeal the court's decision.

World

Russia unleashes country-wide missile barrage against Ukraine

AP

Ukrainian soldiers ride all-terrain vehicles at the front line near Bakhmut, one of the longest battles with Russian troops, Ukraine, Monday, Aug. 14, 2023.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian forces unleashed missiles across Ukraine early on Tuesday, killing and wounding civilians and damaging infrastructure. The barrage came just hours before top Russian military officials and their counterparts from allied countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa gathered outside Moscow for a security conference.

Missiles struck cities from the east to west of Ukraine, including far behind front lines where Ukraine is fighting deeply entrenched Russian forces to regain territory occupied by Moscow almost 18 months into the war.

Russia has built heavily fortified defenses along the more than 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line where Ukraine has only made incremental gains since launching a counteroffensive in early June.

"Deliberate large-scale attacks on civilians. Solely for the sake of killing and psychological pressure," presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said on X, formerly known as Twitter, commenting on the latest Russian attacks.

Six Russian-launched missiles hit the western region of Lviv, wounding 19 people, including a 10-year-old child, Lviv Gov. Maksym Kozytskyi said. According to city authorities, the power grid and nearly 120 residential buildings were damaged.

The Swedish bearings maker SKF confirmed three employees were killed overnight after its factory in Lutsk, north of Lviv, was hit by a missile strike. One person was killed in the east of Ukraine in Kramatorsk after Russian forces hit a food warehouse. In central Ukraine, a strike left parts of the city of Smila without access to water and also damaged a medical facility.

The barrage came a day after Russian forces unleashed a wave of missile and drone strikes on Odesa in the country's southwest.

Military junta says they will prosecute deposed president for 'high treason'

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Ecuador will hold six Colombian men for at least a month as the country probes their involvement in the slaying of a presidential candidate whose life's work was fighting crime and corruption, the national prosecutor's office said Friday.

A public ceremony to mourn Fernando Villavicencio was held Friday in the capital convention center, while a separate funeral service was being held for relatives.

"People need to know that his family's in danger and we can't go to such a big event," the victim's daughter, Tamia Villavicencio, told reporters outside the cemetery.

The Colombian men were arrested Wednesday in connection with Villavicencio's killing in the capital, Quito, earlier in the day. The men, whose nationalities were announced late Thursday, will be detained for at least 30 days in the investigation, but will almost certainly be held for months or years as the case plays out.

They face as many as 26 years in prison each.

Villavicencio was not a front-runner in the race, but his assassination in broad daylight less than two weeks before a special presidential election shocked the country and demonstrated how surging crime will challenge Ecuador's next leader. Violence linked to gangs and cartels have claimed thousands of lives in the past few years.

The suspects were captured hiding in a house in Quito, according to an arrest report reviewed by The Associated Press. Law enforcement officers seized four shotguns, a 5.56-mm rifle, ammunition and three grenades as well as a vehicle and one motorcycle, the report said. Investigators said they found 64 shell casings at the scene of the shooting.

Villavicencio, 59, had said he was threatened by affiliates of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, one of a slew of international organized crime groups that now operate in Ecuador. He said his campaign represented a threat to such groups.

Armed Colombian groups have long used the porous border with Ecuador to hide from the authorities in a region scarred by both cocaine trafficking and deadly political battles between Colombian factions and state forces.

With almost 400 miles (640 kilometers) of Pacific coast, shipping ports and some key exports, Ecuador has been turned by international traffickers from a minor player in the drug business into a hub for the smuggling of cocaine from neighboring Colombia and Peru.

A lack of opportunities and decades of conflict have produced some of the world's most renowned hired guns.

Environment

USCG shifts focus to maritime environment after Maui fires

HONOLULU—Coast Guard first responders are shifting the focus of response resources to minimizing maritime environmental impacts from the Maui fires while remaining ready to respond to any new reports of individuals in the water, Monday.

The Coast Guard has deployed pollution response teams and equipment to affected locations, to include a 100-foot boom placed at the mouth of the Lahaina Harbor, to contain potential hazardous contaminants and materials.

"While the Coast Guard is always postured for search and rescue operations, we are also focused on minimizing maritime environmental impacts as a result of the Maui fires," said Cmdr. Kyra Dykeman, the deputy incident commander for the Coast Guard Maui fire response. "We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the community we serve."

The Coast Guard has a safety zone established from Wahikuli Wayside Park to Launiupoko Beach Park, extending one nautical mile seaward from the shoreline.

The safety zone, enforced by the Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team Honolulu, remains in effect as potential hazards in the waterway are still being evaluated. Safety zones are critical in protecting people, vessels, and the marine environment. In this response, the safety zone aids our partner agencies and first responders by allowing them to facilitate operational mandates and conduct thorough assessments without physical disruption by outside sources.

Coast Guard divers from Regional Dive Locker Pacific, in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, are using Side-Scan Sonar and a Submersible Remote Operated Vehicle to map the Lahaina Channel and coastline off Lahaina in order to detect hazards that would make the channel unsafe for passage.

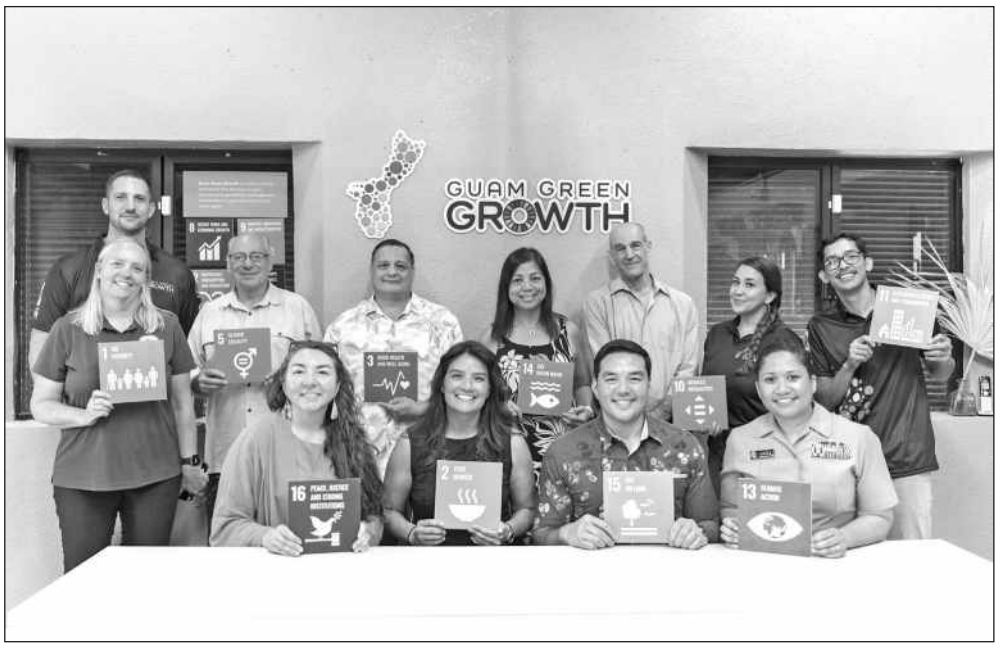
U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO BY SN CHRIS BOKUM

Coast Guard cutter *Juniper* crewmembers load 29-foot response boats aboard to transfer them to Maui to assist in the Lahaina wildfires response on Aug. 10, 2023. A total of 17 lives were saved from the water and 40 survivors were located ashore by Coast Guard Station Maui boat crews. There are no current reports of missing persons in the water, however Coast Guard aircrews and surface assets continue response efforts.

The Coast Guard National Strike Force arrived on Maui Friday to aid in the environmental response operation. The NSF provides highly trained, experienced personnel and specialized equipment to the Coast Guard and other federal agencies to facilitate responses to oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents in order to protect public health and the environment.

For those mariners with questions regarding transit of the safety zone, owners of vessels impacted by the Lahaina fires, and reports of pollution in and around Lahaina Harbor, call 808-723-0008. For all other questions or concerns contact the Maui Emergency Operations Center at (808) 205-9328. ***(USCG)***

UOG to receive $526K to address environmental challenges



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 9, including regional administrator Martha Guzman, seated, second from left; meet recently with Austin Shelton, director of the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant, seated, third from left; and other center staff at the G3 Circular Economy Makerspace and Innovation Hub at the Chamorro Village in Hagåtña, Guam.

The University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant will receive $526,000 as part of a new nationwide initiative to help local communities access federal technical assistance as they resolve environmental challenges.

UOG's participation will be through a partnership with San Diego State University.

SDSU will establish one of 17 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers nationwide. Each of the 17 centers will receive $10 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and UOG's $526,000 will come from its partnership with SDSU.

"UOG continues to serve our students, our island, and our region through our faculty and research expertise, as well as through meaningful partnerships we are building across the globe," said UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez. "We are pleased to partner with the prestigious San Diego State University under the leadership of its president, Dr. Adela Dela Torre, to deliver new resources and networks for the benefit of our island communities."

Many communities across the nation have the solutions to the environmental challenges they face but have lacked access or faced barriers when it comes to the crucial federal resources needed to deliver these solutions, said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan in a previously issued statement about the $177 million nationwide effort.

The 17 Centers will ensure all communities can access benefits from President Biden's historic economic plan, Regan said, "which includes groundbreaking investments in clean air, clean water, and our clean energy future."

In Guam, the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant will lead outreach, engagement, and service delivery for Guam and the rest of the Micronesia region. The local efforts will be coordinated with the Guam Green Growth and the Guam Energy Office.

"Guam and the rest of Micronesia are no strangers to environmental justice issues. We are on the frontlines of climate change's impacts despite contributing the least to its causes. This significant grant will build local capacity to address some of these justice issues and expand our center's ability to support sustainable development in Guam and our region," stated Austin Shelton, director of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant.

Over the next five years, the SDSU Center for Community Energy and Environmental Justice and its partners will co-create accessible, multilingual, in-person, and virtual services to help communities that are often most affected by environmental challenges like drought, flooding, and pollution apply for government funding. ***(UOG)***

Young environmental activists prevail in first-of-its-kind climate change trial in Montana

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—Young environmental activists scored what experts described as a ground-breaking legal victory Monday when a Montana judge said state agencies were violating their constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment by allowing fossil fuel development.

The ruling in this first-of-its-kind trial in the U.S. adds to a small number of legal decisions around the world that have established a government duty to protect citizens from climate change.

If it stands, the ruling could set an important legal precedent, though experts said the immediate impacts are limited and state officials pledged to seek to overturn the decision on appeal.

District Court Judge Kathy Seeley found the policy the state uses in evaluating requests for fossil fuel permits—which does not allow agencies to look at greenhouse gas emissions—is unconstitutional.

It marks the first time a U.S. court has ruled against a government for violating a constitutional right based on climate change, said Harvard Law School Professor Richard Lazarus.

"To be sure, it is a state court not a federal court and the ruling is based on a state constitution and not the U.S. Constitution, but it is still clearly a major, pathbreaking win for climate plaintiffs," Lazarus wrote in an email.

The judge rejected the state's argument that Montana's emissions are insignificant, saying they were "a substantial factor" in climate change. Montana is a major producer of coal burned for electricity and has large oil and gas reserves.

"Every additional ton of GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions exacerbates plaintiffs' injuries and risks locking in irreversible climate injuries," Seeley wrote.

However, it's up to the Montana Legislature to determine how to bring the state's policies into compliance. That leaves slim chances for prompt changes in a fossil fuel-friendly state where Republicans dominate the statehouse.

Only a few states, including Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York, have constitutions with similar environmental protections.

"The ruling really provides nothing beyond emotional support for the many cases seeking to establish a public trust right, human right or a federal constitutional right" to a healthy environment, said James Huffman, dean emeritus at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland.

State officials had tried to derail the case and prevent it from going to trial through numerous motions to dismiss the lawsuit.

Claire Vlases was 17 years old when she became a plaintiff in the case. Now 20 and working as a ski instructor, she said climate change hangs over every aspect of her life.

"I think a lot of young people feel really helpless, especially when it comes to the future," Vlases said, adding that she expects Montana lawmakers to respect the state's constitution and abide by the court's decision.

"Hopefully this is one for history," she said.

Life & Style

‘Wounded Indian’ sculpture is returning to Boston

BOSTON (AP)—A marble statue that depicts a felled Native American pulling an arrow from his torso is being returned to the Boston-area organization cofounded by Paul Revere that thought it had been destroyed decades ago.

“Wounded Indian,” sculpted in 1850 by Peter Stephenson and modeled on the ancient Roman statue “Dying Gaul,” was a gift to the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association in 1893 and was displayed in its exhibition hall, according to Cultural Heritage Partners, the law firm that represented the Boston organization during negotiations.

That hall was sold in 1958, and the association was told that during the chaos of moving and distributing its assets to other area cultural institutions, the sculpture was accidentally destroyed and tossed away.

But the life-size piece showed up 30 years later at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Virginia.

The mechanic association started pressuring the Chrysler Museum for the sculpture’s return as far back as 1999 and stepped up its efforts a few years ago, when it brought in a researcher to establish ownership and hired a lawyer.

AP

This May 31, 2023 photo provided by Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC, shows the statue "Wounded Indian" sculpted in 1850 by Peter Stephenson and modeled on the ancient Roman statue "Dying Gaul," in a gallery at the Chrysler Museum of Art, in Norfolk, Va.

But the dispute was not resolved until Aug. 9, when the Chrysler’s trustees agreed to return the statue.

“It feels great to get the piece back because we really felt that there wasn’t any question that it was our statue,” said Peter Lemonias, the treasurer and past president of the mechanic association, who chaired the panel that worked on getting it back. “We were perplexed as anyone as to how it got away.”

It is headed back to Boston at a time when 19th-century art depicting Native Americans is under increased scrutiny. Like its inspiration, “Wounded Indian” depicts a vanquished foe considered primitive by the artist’s cultural standards.

The statue dates to the end of the Removal Era, when Native tribes were being pushed west to make way for white settlers. Art of the era reflects nostalgia and myth about growth that came at the expense of suffering by Indigenous people.

Accounts of 'body checks' at Miss U Indonesia shock nation

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Their dreams of representing Indonesia in the 2023 Miss Universe pageant turned to nightmares when they were forced to undergo "body checks" in front of local organizers. Now seven contestants have filed complaints with the police, accusing the organizers of sexual harassment, their lawyer said Tuesday.

During the July 29-Aug. 3 Miss Universe Indonesia contest in the capital of Jakarta—and ahead of the show's Grand Final event—the contestants were told to strip to their underwear for "body checks" for scars or cellulite, said lawyer Melissa Anggraini.

The checks took place in a ballroom at the downtown Sari Pacific Hotel, where the contest was held, with about two dozen people present, including men. Five of the contestants said they were then photographed topless, Anggraini said.

"We have obtained some evidences, even videos showing that the organizer had carried out 'body checks'," she added.

One of her clients, 23-year-old model Priskila Ribka Jelita who represented West Java province in the pageant, recounted her "body check" ordeal in an interview with The Associated Press.

"When they asked me to open my bra ... I was shocked! But I couldn't speak or refuse," she said. "When I tried to cover my breast with my hand, I was even scolded and yelled at."

"I was totally confused, nervous and humiliated, especially when I was told to lift my left leg on the chair" for an inspection up the inside of her leg, Jelita said.

Algeria bans 'Barbie' almost a month after movie's local release

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—The "Barbie" movie was pulled from theaters in Algeria this week almost one month after its release in the North African country.

Online news outlet 24H Algerie said Algeria's Ministry of Culture and Arts notified cinemas in Algiers, Oran and Constantine to "immediately" pull the movie.

Neither the ministry nor the Algerian Audiovisual Regulatory Authority commented on the reported directive or provided a rationale for it.

"Barbie" opened in some some Algerian cinemas last month. The film's distributors removed the Hollywood blockbuster from their screening schedules starting this week..

The move comes after authorities in Kuwait and Lebanon banned the live action movie based on the American fashion dolls for allegedly threatening conservative values.

Some people in Algeria protested the cancellation on social media, posting their complaints along with the hashtag "#IAmBarbie." Others denounced it as "censorship" and "bigotry."

"The 'Barbie' film 'is a threat to morality,' they say," writer Leila Belkacem posted on her Facebook page. "What morality are they talking about when the censors gorge on porn films at home? Aren't you tired of dragging the country into your dark delusions?"

Madonna reschedules tour after ICU stay, N. American dates kick off this December

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Madonna ‘s rescheduled Celebration Tour will kick off in Brooklyn, New York, in a matter of months.

In June, Madonna suffered what her manager called a “serious bacterial infection” that led to her hospitalization in an intensive care unit for several days. The North American leg of her Celebration Tour was originally scheduled to start July 15 in Vancouver, British Columbia, and to run through October 8 in Las Vegas. It was postponed as she recovered.

Madonna

Her tour will now start on October 14, at London’s O2 Arena.

On Tuesday, Live Nation announced that the majority of Madonna’s North American tour dates have been rescheduled. They immediately follow a stint in the U.K. and Europe, kicking off on December 13 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, and running through April 24, 2024, when it will conclude at Mexico City’s Palacio de los Deportes.

Dates in San Francisco, Las Vegas and Phoenix—as well as Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Nashville, Tennessee—have been canceled due to scheduling conflicts. Refunds will be available at point of purchase.

Goddaughter’s wedding is perfect time to mend fences

DEAR ABBY: I have a lovely goddaughter I’m estranged from. Although I had promised her she would be maid of honor at my wedding in 2015 (my second marriage), I didn’t do it. My fiance was diagnosed with Huntington’s disease, so we decided instead to have a commitment ceremony. I felt bad but didn’t contact her right away to explain I wouldn’t have any attendants after all. It’s a blur now, but I think I emailed her or asked her mother (my dear friend) to tell her. My friend denies that her daughter is angry, but my goddaughter hasn’t spoken to me since 2015. She is now engaged. I’d like to write her a letter, but I don’t know what to say. I was thinking of mailing it without telling my friend because, as I said, she still denies anything is wrong. I found the address on the internet. What do you think? I’m heartbroken knowing I cannot celebrate her upcoming wedding.

SADDENED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR SADDENED: If you feel the need to write your goddaughter a letter explaining the legitimate reason you and your husband decided to forgo a formal wedding with attendants, do it. Your reason for changing your plans was a valid one. Although I’m sure things were hectic at the time you made that decision, it would have been better had you explained directly to her the reason for your abrupt change of plans. Because this is weighing on your mind, apologize for the delay in contacting her, tell her you were delighted when you heard about her forthcoming wedding and you would love to celebrate it with her. Then cross your fingers because the ball is in her court.

■ ■ ■

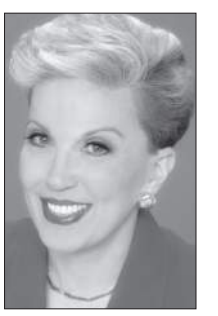
DEAR ABBY: I am having an issue with the lady who lives above me. I moved into my apartment a month ago because it seemed so quiet in the complex. Before signing the lease, I asked my landlord if the tenant above me is quiet because when you live on the first floor, you can sometimes hear everything going on above you. The landlord assured me that it was pretty quiet. A couple of weeks went by, and it was quiet until one Friday I heard this stomping noise above me. I thought it would go away.

Little did I know, the lady upstairs watches her two grandsons and another boy. Abby, this stomping around goes on all weekend, and it drives me crazy. I was tapping the ceiling to let her know it was getting too loud. She called our landlord and complained! My landlady is also a client of my daughter’s, who is a hairstylist, so I caught heck from my daughter, too. Must I just grin and bear it, or should I say something to the lady upstairs?

CAN’T LIVE LIKE THIS IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR CAN’T LIVE LIKE THIS: When your landlady told you the renters upstairs were quiet, she lied and misled you. What you need to do now is get out of that lease. The quickest way to do that would be to consult a real estate attorney. You do not have to live like this, and your daughter should not be blaming you and siding with the person who is causing the problem.

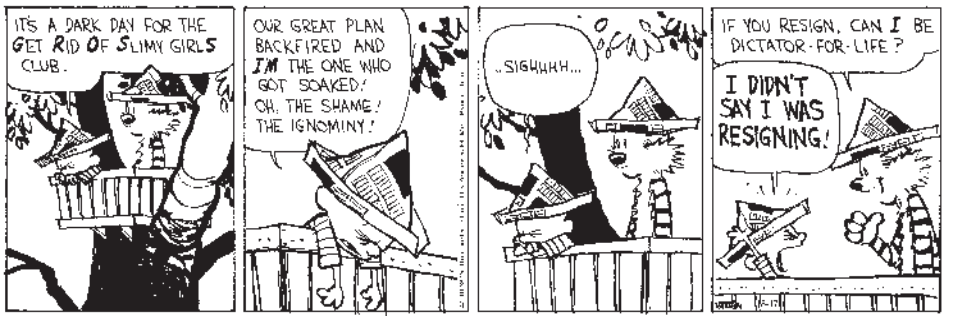
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

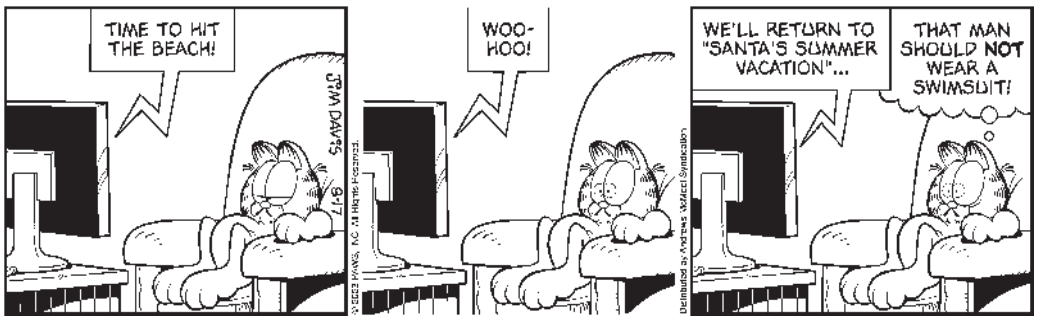
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IT'S A DARK DAY FOR THE GET RID OF SLIMY GIRLS CLUB.
OUR GREAT PLAN BACKFIRED AND IM THE ONE WHO GOT SOAKED! OH, THE SHAME! THE IGNOMINY!
..SIGHHHH...
IF YOU RESIGN, CAN I BE DICTATOR-FOR-LIFE?
I DIDN'T SAY I WAS RESIGNING!

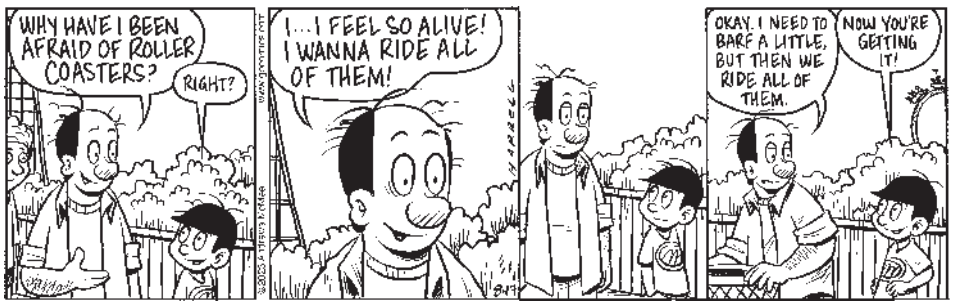
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



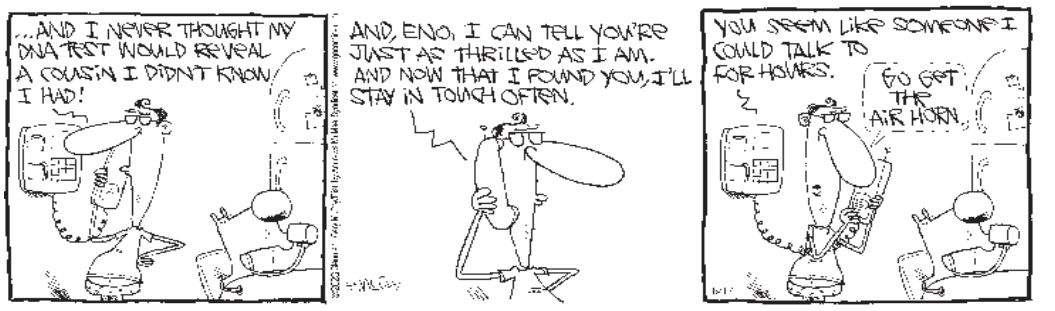
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHY HAVE I BEEN AFRAID OF ROLLER COASTERS?
RIGHT?
I...I FEEL SO ALIVE! I WANNA RIDE ALL OF THEM!
OKAY. I NEED TO BARF A LITTLE, BUT THEN WE RIDE ALL OF THEM.
NOW YOU'RE GETTING IT!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


...AND I NEVER THOUGHT MY DNA TEST WOULD REVEAL A COUSIN I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD!
AND, ENO, I CAN TELL YOU'RE JUST AS THRILLED AS I AM. AND NOW THAT I FOUND YOU, I'LL STAY IN TOUCH OFTEN.
YOU SEEM LIKE SOMEONE I COULD TALK TO FOR HOURS.
GO GET THE AIR HORN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

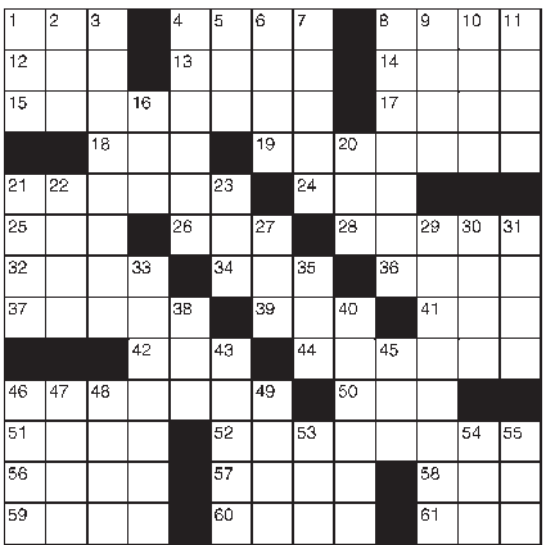
ACROSS
1 Lass
4 Cheeky back talk
8 Genesis brother
12 Punk rock offshoot
13 Cosmetics chain
14 Bar mitzvah, e.g.
15 Reduced velocity
17 Israel's Abba
18 "Gosh!"
19 "Guernica" painter
21 Zimbabwe's capital
24 Mess up
25 Football's Parseghian
26 Lad
28 "Delicious!"
32 Roman 2600
34 PBS supporter
36 Maja painter
37 Mike of "Shrek"
39 Sample
41 The Magic, on scoreboards
42 Like aspirin, briefly
44 Of the flesh
46 Stressful spot
50 Small barrel
51 Flightless birds
52 Job-related sequence of tasks
56 Wee parasite
57 Coastal eagle
58 Scrap
59 Poker type
60 Conked out
61 Director Craven

DOWN
1 Solidify
2 I love (Lat.)
3 Inferior
4 Excellent
5 Hearty brew
6 Dance move
7 "Sexy" Beatles girl
8 Floor covering
9 Shirt protectors
10 LAX guesses
11 Fallon predecessor
16 Salty expanse
20 Weep
21 Jon of "Mad Men"
22 Multitude
23 Many millennia
27 Even so
29 Swing Era hit by Benny Goodman
30 "—Breckinridge"
31 Informal pronoun
33 Traversed
35 Rainbow shape
38 Holy Fr. woman
40 Talked on and on
43 Made crow noises
45 Game caller
46 Shortens a skirt, say
47 Skip
48 Ballet wear
49 Sped
53 Genetic letters
54 Raw rock
55 Scale amts.

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	P	T		M	A	S	T		T	I	N	S
V	I	A		E	N	T	O		A	C	A	I
E	S	L		M	Y	S	T	E	R	I	E	S
C	A	C	A	O			S	E	Z			
			W	I	M	P		L	A	R	G	E
W	I	N	E	R	I	E	S		N	A	L	A
A	S	E		S	A	T	O	N		V	E	T
S	L	A	B		S	A	L	A	R	I	E	S
P	A	R	I	S		L	E	T	O			
			G	U	T			A	I	O	L	I
B	R	E	W	E	R	I	E	S		P	U	N
F	I	F	I		O	A	T	H		E	S	C
F	O	G	G		Y	M	C	A		N	T	H

Yesterday's answer 8-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Austin Butler, 32; Tammy Townsend, 53; Donnie Wahlberg, 54; Robert De Niro, 80.

Happy Birthday: Keep close tabs on your health, finances and legal matters. Precision and detail will make a difference in the outcome of such issues and bring positive results. Use charm to get the attention you desire and the help you need to reach your target. Personal growth and self-improvement will pay off. Someone will be jealous or use temptation to lead you astray. Know when to say no. Your numbers are 4, 12, 18, 23, 30, 34, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Social events, personal growth and physical fitness are favored, but before you set your sights on something, evaluate the emotional, financial and material costs involved. Too much of anything will prove more harmful than good. Don't let temptation and shortcuts take over. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't jump for joy prematurely. There will be some ifs and buts to deal with before you get what you want. Your persistence will pay off, so don't get discouraged; giving your very best is essential to reach your goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stifle your emotions, keep your plans to yourself and adjust your lifestyle to fit your needs. Taking on someone else's fight will not solve your problems. Think before someone lures you in a direction that benefits them more than you. Make self-improvement a priority. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Adjust your home to suit your needs. Fuel your imagination and build a space specific to a pursuit that interests you. Refuse to let outside interference redirect you from the things that are important to you. Follow your heart and please yourself. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You've got the right idea but the wrong team. Redesign your plans to fit the talent in the room or change your helpers to fulfill your original concept. Being a take-charge leader will ensure your success. Set standards and fulfill promises. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Focus on how you want things to unfold, and make it happen. Your perceptive determination will take you where you want to go and give you the platform to get others on board. Study information and educate others, and significant opportunities will transpire. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Participation will lead to exciting connections, but don't let it break the bank. Cap what you will spend or donate before you get involved. An opportunity is only good if it will get you where you want to go. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pay attention to what's happening in the rearview mirror. Study the past, and you'll make better decisions based on common sense and logistics. Use your voice to inform others of the truth and possibilities. Make changes that propagate trust, loyalty and respect. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* What you see is what you get. Don't believe everything you hear. Ask questions, go directly to the source and make decisions based on what you see and experience. Don't be a follower. Change what's necessary. Make personal improvement a priority. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You are sitting in a better position than anticipated. Strike while the iron is hot, but stay within budget. Refuse to let someone you love or want to impress push you into something that will add stress or inconvenience to your daily routine. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Assess partnerships and reset how you structure your life. Peace of mind comes from doing what's best for you, not putting others first. Focus on your achievements and protecting what's important to you. Self-improvement will lead to good health and happiness. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't miss an opportunity because you are too afraid to move. Look at your options, discuss your plans with an expert or someone you respect, and make changes that complement how you envision your life. It's time to dump dead weight. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are knowledgeable, friendly and thoughtful. You are persistent and vigilant.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		6	2		8	3	
			5			9		
2	8					7		5
9		7				6		
		5	7		4	2		
3		2				5		
5	7	3			1	4		6
				6	5		2	7
6	2				8		5	

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	1	9	5	6	8	7	3	4
8	7	4	2	9	3	5	1	6
3	6	5	1	4	7	2	9	8
9	5	8	6	2	1	4	7	3
6	4	3	7	8	5	1	2	9
1	2	7	9	3	4	6	8	5
4	3	6	8	7	2	9	5	1
7	9	1	3	5	6	8	4	2
5	8	2	4	1	9	3	6	7

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/16

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES **Solution: 9 letters**

Y	A	G	F	D	M	C	S	T	R	O	P	S	H	H
L	R	R	R	A	L	E	F	L	G	A	L	A	T	N
I	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	O	I	N	U	E	R
M	W	D	S	A	G	E	C	P	F	V	O	A	G	O
A	H	U	D	R	D	S	W	E	N	Y	E	C	A	B
F	T	A	S	W	E	E	K	E	N	D	I	H	T	S
L	W	T	L	O	D	V	B	L	I	S	S	I	T	D
S	O	I	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	R	E	E	O	E
E	R	O	I	D	A	G	R	N	A	E	P	V	C	H
I	G	N	H	C	H	A	T	B	N	G	H	E	S	S
T	G	H	H	C	H	I	H	S	L	A	E	M	B	I
R	E	M	M	U	S	R	D	O	P	N	A	E	O	R
A	Ⓗ	Ⓞ	Ⓜ	Ⓔ	K	R	A	P	P	E	R	N	J	E
P	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	R	E	T	T	O	H
O	R	C	I	S	U	M	D	D	S	T	F	A	R	C

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Achievement, Anniversary, Arcade, Award, Bars, Beach, Birthday, Bliss, Born, Chat, Cherished, Cottage, Crafts, Dates, Dreams, Family, Fate, Friends, Gala, Gift, Graduation, Growth, Happy, Heart, Holidays, Home, Hope, Humor, Jobs, License, Life, Love, Marriage, Meals, Music, News, Park, Parties, Pets, Poem, Reunion, School, Song, Sports, Summer, Teenager, Vacation, Wedding, Weekend, Youth

Yesterday's Answer: Finishes

The NEW **Treasury 54** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-856-232-2367)

Spain beats Sweden with last-minute goal, advances to 1st final

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—Spain will play for its first Women's World Cup championship after Olga Carmona's goal in the 89th minute lifted La Roja to a 2-1 victory over Sweden in the Tuesday semifinal.

Spain, which overcame last year's near mutiny by its players against coach Jorge Vilda, will play the winner of tournament co-host Australia and England on Sunday in the final in Sydney.

The controversy surrounding Spain dates to last September, when 15 players signed a letter complaining about Vilda and the conditions for the the national team. Three of those players are on this World Cup team, and Vilda a day before the game against Sweden praised the Spanish federation for its support.

Now, La Roja has a chance to become a first-time World Cup champion.

"This is a historic day," said Vilda. "We're in the final, that's what we wanted."

He again thanked the federation and its leadership for the support that has Spain one win away from the World Cup.

AP

Spain's Olga Carmona is held aloft by a teammate after defeating Sweden in the Women's World Cup semifinal soccer match at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023.

"The end result is a learning process which has made us all stronger in my opinion, and to leave it archived in the past and think about the future," Vilda said through a translator. "And to think that we're here because we deserve it."

Carmona's goal capped a flurry of late scoring that saw Sweden tie the game, then Spain win it 90 seconds later on the surprise score.

Salma Paralluelo, the 19-year-old super-sub who also scored the game-winner in Spain's 2-1 extra-time quarterfinals victory over the Netherlands, scored in the 81st minute to put Spain up 1-0. She gestured for the crowd to cheer, and the crowd thought it was celebrating Spain's decider.

But the celebration was brief. Rebecka Blomqvist tied it for Sweden in the 88th.

Then, just 90 seconds later, Carmona beat Sweden goalkeeper Zecira Musovic with the game-winner.

"It was really, really really crazy," Spanish defender Irene Paredes said. "After scoring the first one it was like, 'OK, this is the end, we have to keep this score.' But they scored quite fast and I was like, `What the hell happened?' But we had confidence that we could create something else."

Sweden has now lost in four of five semifinals and will try to finish third for a fourth time.

"I have to watch the game, I really do, before I can make any assessments," said Sweden coach Peter Gerhardsson. "Right now I am full of emotions. It is is the third loss in the semifinals. I think everyone just feels sadness and huge disappointment."

Paralluelo became just the second teenager to score in a Women's World Cup semifinal after Kara Lang of Canada in 2003, also against Sweden

"It was a magic moment. It is something very unique when I scored the first goal. To be able to repeat is really incredible," Paraluello said.

Spain is playing in only its third World Cup. Four years ago, La Roja advanced to the knockout round but lost to eventual champions the United States.

"Now it's the final. I think we have to do what we've done in every match," said Paralluelo. "We've overcome every challenge and now we face the ultimate challenge, the big one"

The Swedes have never won a World Cup. They were the 2003 runner-up and have finished third three times. Sweden won silver medals at the Tokyo Olympics two years ago, and at the 2016 Games in Brazil.

"I'm tired of crying big tournament tears," said Kosovare Asllani. Sweden also lost in the semifinals of the Euros last September.

The Swedes swept their opponents in the group stage before knocking out two-time reigning champion the United States on a penalty shootout after a scoreless draw.

Sweden then got by previously unbeaten Japan 2-1 in the quarterfinals.

Spain fell to second in its group after a blowout loss to Japan, but rallied to beat Switzerland 5-1 and the Netherlands 2-1 to reach the semifinals. It was La Roja's first appearance in a major semifinal since the 1997 European Championships.

Spain's two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas made her third start of the World Cup. Putellas ruptured her ACL last summer and has been working her way back to full fitness. She came off the bench in the team's last two matches.

Putellas, who replaced Esther Gonzalez in the starting 11, was subbed off in the 57th minute for teenage Paralluelo, who has now scored in two straight games.

Spain dominated possession and had the better chances in the first half. Carmona's blast from the top of the box was a low shot went just wide. Sweden's defense, which had allowed just two goals in the tournament, held.

Putellas nutmegged Filippa Angeldal before delivering a cross in the 35th minute but Magdalena Eriksson was there to clear it away.

Spain goalkeeper Cata Coll dove to save Fridolina Rolfo's shot late in the half, then punched the ball away on a corner kick to keep the game scoreless at the half.

Sweden had energy to start the second half but Spain still had chances. Paralleulo's header in the 63rd minute sailed over the goal.

Alba Redondo was on the ground in front of the goal but got a foot on the ball and appeared to score in the 71st minute, but she was just wide and the ball was caught up in the side netting.

There were a few tense moments when Paralluelo's goal was checked by video review, but it was awarded.

After Carmona's goal, Spain's players piled on top of her near their bench.

There were 43,217 fans on hand for the match at Auckland's Eden Park.

Sweden again falls to the third-place game at the Women's World Cup

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—Once again, Sweden finds itself in a very familiar spot—playing for third place at the Women's World Cup.

The Swedes were the third-place finishers four years ago in France, and at the first World Cup in 1991.

With a 2-1 loss to Spain in the semifinals on Tuesday in Auckland, Sweden will again play for third against the loser of Wednesday's match between England and host Australia in Sydney.

The loss was disappointing for third-ranked Sweden after knocking off the United States in the round of 16. But the Swedes must now rally for the consolation game on Saturday in Brisbane.

"We've not come this far to just give up now," Sweden defender Magdalena Eriksson said. "We have another game to play. We're going to do everything we can to win it."

The closest Sweden has come to winning the World Cup was in 2003, when they fell to Germany 2-1 in the final.

It's been much the same at the Olympics. Sweden won silver medals at the Tokyo Games two years ago, and at the 2016 Olympics in Brazil. But the team has never won gold.

AP

Sweden's Magdalena Eriksson leaves the pitch after losing the Women's World Cup semifinal soccer match between Sweden and Spain at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023.

"We wanted the final. But here we are," said a somber Lina Hurtig, who kicked the winning penalty in the shootout against the United States after a scoreless draw—the earliest the two-time defending champion Americans had been eliminated.

Sweden then downed Japan 2-1 in the quarterfinals but Spain—which led the field in scoring with 14 goals going into the match—proved to be a juggernaut. Sweden had allowed only two goals in the tournament and its defense against Spain held until 19-year-old substitute Salma Paralluelo scored in the 81st minute.

From there it was bedlam. Sweden answered with Rebecka Blomqvist's goal in the 88th but a minute later Olga Carmona scored the game-winner for Spain.

"I think it was a really even game," Eriksson said. "I think they started better than us, but we grew into the game. In the second half it was completely even. It could have gone either way. The way we stepped up after conceding was really good and then it was really annoying to see them score so quickly after that."

Sweden goalkeeper Zecira Musovic became a breakout star at the World Cup with a tournament-record 11 saves against the United States. Musovic competed for the starting role with Jennifer Falk as the successor to longtime Sweden goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl.

"I know those setbacks will fuel me to become even better," Musovic said. "We still have a medal to play for. It's hard to think about that medal today because I'm so freaking disappointed. But tomorrow is a new day, a new opportunity, and I will do everything I can to be able to help the team take the bronze medal."

Saturday's match will be the last for Sweden midfielder Caroline Seger, who has played in five World Cups. She has battled a calf injury throughout the tournament and has played only sparingly.

Acuña, Ozuna go deep, Elder leads 1-hitter, Braves beat Yankees

ATLANTA (AP)— Bryce Elder and Marcell Ozuna never lost faith in themselves.

It's sure paying off.

Bouncing back from a rough stretch, Elder pitched seven innings to lead a one-hitter, getting all the run support he needed when Ozuna hit a three-run homer in the first to lead the Atlanta Braves past the reeling New York Yankees 5-0.

Ronald Acuña Jr. also went deep for the Braves, who have outscored the Yankees 16-3 over the first two games of the series.

"I'm not going to sit up here and say I was always confident," said Elder, a first-time All-Star this season but just 1-3 with a 7.94 ERA over his previous six starts. "You just have to say, 'Forget it. I'm just going to go back to trying to make one pitch at a time.' Whatever the result is, I can live with it."

He certainly had no complaints after this one.

DJ LeMahieu singled to center in the second for the lone New York hit, a season low for the Yankees. He was erased on one of four double plays his team hit into — three of them against Elder, who faced just one batter above the minimum.

Elder walked three and struck out three while throwing 94 pitches. A.J. Minter and Kirby Yates finished with a hitless inning apiece for the Braves' 12th shutout this season.

After an 11-3 romp in the series opener, the Braves wasted no time jumping on Luis Severino (2-8), whose dismal season has been marred by atrocious numbers in the first inning.

That trend didn't change against the Braves. With two outs, Ozuna launched his 24th homer of the season over the center-field wall for a three-run shot. The homer extended Ozuna's hitting streak to 13 games and gave the Braves a major league-best 120 first-inning runs.

AP

Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Bryce Elder throws to a New York Yankees batter during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023, in Atlanta.

DODGERS 6, BREWERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rookie Bobby Miller tossed six innings of one-run ball and Los Angeles won its ninth straight game, beating Milwaukee in a matchup of division leaders.

The NL West-leading Dodgers are riding their longest winning streak since taking 12 in a row from July 31-Aug. 13 last year. They improved to 13-1 this month and are a season-best 26 games over .500 (72-46).

Miller (7-2) allowed one hit in his first win since July 22. The right-hander struck out four and walked one.

Ryan Yarbrough earned his first save of the season with three innings of relief. Adrian Houser (4-4) took the loss.

RANGERS 7, ANGELS 3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Corey Seager hit two homers and drove in five runs as AL West-leading Texas beat slumping Los Angeles.

Seager had a two-run homer that just cleared the left-center wall and later pulled a no-doubt shot into the right-field seats for his 12th career multi-homer game. The All-Star shortstop capped his three-hit night with a two-run single in the eighth inning.

Jordan Montgomery (8-10) struck out nine without a walk over six innings in his third start for the Rangers since they got him in a trade-deadline deal from last-place St. Louis.

Angels starter Lucas Giolito (7-9), one of their deadline acquisitions, allowed four runs while throwing a season-high 110 pitches over six innings.

WHITE SOX 5, CUBS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Luis Robert Jr. hit a tiebreaking solo homer in his return to the lineup, and the White Sox beat the crosstown Cubs at Wrigley Field.

Robert drove a hanging slider from Julian Merryweather (4-1) deep to left with two out in the seventh inning, giving the White Sox a 4-3 lead. It was Robert's team-high 32nd homer. He had been sidelined since last week with a sprained right pinky finger.

After Touki Toussaint departed in the fifth, four White Sox relievers combined for five innings of two-hit ball. Lane Ramsey (1-0) got his first major league win, and Gregory Santos earned his fourth save of the season by striking out three in 1 2/3 innings.

GUARDIANS 3, REDS 0

CINCINNATI (AP)—Rookie Logan Allen allowed four hits in six innings, Kole Calhoun hit a two-run single in the first and Cleveland won consecutive games for the first time in three weeks.

Allen (6-5) struck out seven and walked three for the Guardians, who had not strung together wins since three in a row from July 25-27. Emmanuel Clase pitched a one-hit ninth for his 32nd save in 41 chances.

Cincinnati's Graham Ashcraft (6-8) allowed all three runs seven hits in seven innings.

José Ramírez returned from a two-game suspension for fighting with Chicago White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson and went 2 for 4 in the first Ohio Cup matchup this year.

BLUE JAYS 2, PHILLIES 1

TORONTO (AP)—Cavan Biggio was hit in the foot by a pitch from Seranthony Dominguez (2-3) with the bases loaded pitch in the eighth inning to force in the tiebreaking run, and Toronto beat Philadelphia.

Jordan Hicks (2-7) struck out all three batters he faced as Toronto won its second straight after losing the previous three.

Activated off the injured list earlier Tuesday after missing 16 games because of a sore back, All-Star closer Jordan Romano finished for his 29th save in 32 chances.

Philadelphia has lost three in a row.

ASTROS 6, MARLINS 5

MIAMI (AP)—Kyle Tucker hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning and Houston rallied past Miami.

Tucker connected on the first pitch from reliever A.J. Puk (5-5). The Astros, who dropped the first game of the series at Miami and trailed 3-0 in this one, have won six of nine and hold the second NL wild-card spot.

The Marlins' three-game winning streak ended.

Hunter Brown (9-8) pitched two scoreless innings in his first relief appearance of the season. Ryan Pressly allowed a one-out double by Jesús Sánchez in the ninth but held on for his 28th save in 32 opportunities.

RED SOX 5, NATIONALS 4

WASHINGTON (AP)—Alex Verdugo led off the game with a homer and Boston beat Washington.

Boston, which remained three games behind Toronto for the American League's last wild-card spot, has won six of eight. The Red Sox improved to 9-1 at Nationals Park.

John Schreiber (2-1), the second of five Red Sox relievers, pitched a scoreless sixth inning. Kenley Jansen handled the ninth for his 28th save.

Stone Garrett and Keibert Ruiz each drove in two runs for the Nationals, who had won 12 of their last 14 at home. Josiah Gray (7-10) gave up five runs in three-plus innings, his shortest outing of the season.

TWINS 5, TIGERS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Matt Wallner hit a grand slam to cap a five-run sixth inning and Minnesota beat Detroit.

Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera hit his 509th career homer to match Gary Sheffield for 26th all-time, a two-run shot in the second inning. It was just the second homer this year for Cabrera, who's playing his final season.

Dylan Floro (4-5) earned his first win with Minnesota with a scoreless inning of relief. Jhoan Duran allowed a solo homer to Spencer Torkelson but recorded his 22nd save.

Reliever Will Vest allowed Wallner's grand slam after coming on in relief of José Cisnero (2-3).

PADRES 10, ORIOLES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Gary Sánchez hit a grand slam in a five-run first inning and Manny Machado added a two-run double in the second against struggling Jack Flaherty to help San Diego beat AL-leading Baltimore.

The offensive breakout made a winner of Michael Wacha (9-2) in his first start since July 1. The Padres snapped a three-game losing streak and won for just the second time in nine games.

Austin Hays homered in the ninth for the Orioles, whose three-game winning streak ended.

Flaherty (8-8), making his third start with the Orioles since being acquired from St. Louis, allowed seven runs on four hits and four walks on 84 pitches in three innings.

GIANTS 7, RAYS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Thairo Estrada homered with one out in the sixth to break up a scoreless game, Wilmer Flores hit a two-run drive three batters later, and San Francisco blanked Tampa Bay.

Jakob Junis struck out seven over four innings and gave way to Sean Manaea (4-3), who struck out five and allowed one hit over 3 1/3 innings.

Wade Meckler delivered his first major league hit, a sharp single to center in the sixth that chased Rays right-hander Zack Littell (2-4).

Giants manager Gabe Kapler was was ejected in the fourth for arguing balls and strikes.

MARINERS 10, ROYALS 8, 10 INNINGS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Ty France lined a two-run single to center off Tucker Davidson (1-2) in the 10th inning and Seattle rebounded from a blown seven-run lead to beat Kansas City.

Eugenio Suárez, France, Teoscar Hernández and Josh Rojas homered in a seven-run fourth inning off Jordan Lyles, the Mariners' first four-homer inning since May 2, 2002 at the Chicago White Sox.

Bobby Witt Jr. sparked the Royals' comeback in a five-run fifth with his second grand slam in an 18-day span. Kansas City tied it in the ninth with three unearned runs off Andres Munoz (3-5).

Tayler Saucedo got three straight outs for got his first major league save.

PIRATES 7, METS 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Jason Delay hit a two-run double in a six-run seventh inning and Pittsburgh beat New York.

Pittsburgh stranded 10 runners through six innings before sending 10 batters to the plate against a trio of pitchers in the seventh. Jose Butto (0-2) allowed three runs, two hits and three walks in 2 2/3 innings.

Colin Selby (1-0), making his fourth big league appearance, entered a 1-1 game in the sixth and got the win despite allowing back-to-back homers—a two-run pinch-hit shot by DJ Stewart and Jonathan Arauz's second homer in as many games.

David Bednar tossed a scoreless ninth for his 25th save in 28 chances.

DIAMONDBACKS 8, ROCKIES 5

DENVER (AP)—Ketel Marte had a two-run single and Tommy Pham hit a go-ahead double in a five-run ninth inning, and Arizona beat Colorado.

Christian Walker homered for Arizona, and Kevin Ginkel (6-0) got the victory. Closer Paul Sewald loaded the bases with one out in the ninth before retiring the final two batters for his 24th save.

Brenton Doyle homered and Nolan Jones and Elehuris Montero had three hits each for the Rockies, who used a three-run seventh to take a 5-3 lead.

In the ninth, Alek Thomas singled and Geraldo Perdomo doubled on the first two pitches from closer Justin Lawrence (3-6). Marte singled to tie it and came home on Pham's broken-bat double. Pham scored on Lourdes Gurriel Jr.'s single.

CARDINALS 6, ATHLETICS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Nolan Arenado and Jordan Walker homered in the first inning against Spenser Watkins (0-1) and St. Louis beat Oakland.

Arenado finished with four hits and Tommy Edman also homered for the last-place Cardinals, who have won five of six.

Dakota Hudson (4-0) recorded his third successive win, allowing two runs on five hits over 6 2/3 innings.

Lawrence Butler hit his first major league homer for Oakland, which has lost five straight overall and its last nine on the road.

Getting used to some rule differences is part of learning process for USA Basketball

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—There were 1.4 seconds left in the first half of USA Basketball's first exhibition game of its pre-World Cup tour this summer, with the Americans taking the ball out on the far end of the floor. U.S. coach Steve Kerr signaled for a quick inbounds pass and desperation heave.

If he was coaching such a game in San Francisco, or any other NBA city, Kerr probably would never call timeout in that situation. Only this summer, he's coaching under FIBA rules. And after getting a bit of an education on how timeouts don't carry over into the second half under FIBA rules, Kerr realized he could have called one to set up a better play.

"All this stuff comes into play now," said Kerr, coach of the Golden State Warriors. "That's what these exhibition games are for — for players and coaches."

The international game and the NBA game are basically the same: The rims are still 10 feet off the ground, teams still play 5-on-5 and fouls are still fouls. But there are a slew of differences — some nuanced, some not so much — that will make the World Cup seem different from the game that the Americans are used to playing in the U.S.

And the five-game exhibition slate for the Americans, which wraps up this week in Abu Dhabi, is a chance to figure out many of those changes.

"The games," said U.S. forward Bobby Portis of the Milwaukee Bucks, "are two totally different games."

The games are shorter at the FIBA level — 10-minute quarters as opposed to 12 in the NBA — and so is the 3-point line, from a couple of inches in the corners to about 18 inches at its deepest points. Players foul out on their fifth foul in FIBA, not their sixth like in the NBA. There's no defensive 3-second rule in FIBA. Players can't call timeout to avoid a jump ball or held-ball situation, and once a ball touches the rim it's fair game for the offense and the defense; it's not goaltending or basket interference if someone strikes the ball after it hits the rim.

"The physicality is different," U.S. forward Paolo Banchero of the Orlando Magic said. "You can be physical on defense in terms of redirecting your man, the way you can guard. That's the biggest thing that stands out. And a 40-minute game, it goes by quicker. In the NBA, you can be down 20 in the first quarter and not be worried because you've got time. You can ease into the game a little bit. Not here; you want to be going 100 mph from the jump."

Jaren Jackson Jr. clearly doesn't have any issue with NBA rules when it comes to defense; the Memphis Grizzlies center is the league's reigning defensive player of the year. And he's finding that FIBA's rules allow him to play even more freely on that end of the floor.

"It's great with the rule changes," Jackson said. "You can be a lot more physical, guards can be physical up high, they can kind of funnel everything down to the bigs down low."

AP

Head coach Steve Kerr of the Golden State Warriors motions as he speaks with his players at a practice during training camp for the United States men's basketball team Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, in Las Vegas.

There is still a learning curve, but the Americans seem to be picking up the differences in rules just fine. USA Basketball, as it has several other times, had FIBA referees in training camp for this team in Las Vegas earlier this month to blow the whistles in scrimmages — and the team has gone 3-0 in its exhibitions, winning all by double figures including Sunday's road win over Spain, the world's top-ranked team.

Games seem to be flying by, U.S. point guard Jalen Brunson of the New York Knicks said, and that's not just because of the shorter quarters. Even the timeouts last for less time in FIBA games than they do in the NBA, when it seems like the last few minutes of a fourth quarter can take forever.

"There's a mixture of being physical and sometimes not being able to touch," Brunson said after practice Tuesday at New York University's Abu Dhabi campus. "It's different. The game is totally different. But it's about how fast you can adjust. We don't play by these rules year in and year out and the small things are different, but you just have to adjust a little bit. It's still basketball."

Celtics' Porzingis won't play in FIBA World Cup because of foot problem

Boston Celtics forward Kristaps Porzingis will not play for Latvia in the FIBA World Cup because of plantar fasciitis.

Porzingis announced on X, the social media platform previously known as Twitter, that he made the decision after an MRI in consultation with the Celtics and Latvian coaching and medical staffs about the foot issue.

"Such a decision is not easy to make, but I promise that I will be there and support the team as much as I can," Porzingis wrote in Latvian.

He didn't indicate how quickly he could return to basketball, but plantar fasciitis can be an ongoing issue. Porzingis posted that he already has had "several weeks of recovery."

The World Cup begins begins Aug. 25 in Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Porzingis is the latest NBA name to bow out of the tournament; among the others, Greece's Giannis Antetokounmpo said he cannot play because of his ongoing recovery from knee surgery, NBA Finals MVP Nikola Jokic of the champion Denver Nuggets opted not to play for Serbia because of his short offseason, and No. 1 overall draft pick Victor Wembanyama of the San Antonio Spurs declined a chance to play for France so he could prep for his first NBA season. And Canada is waiting to hear if Jamal Murray of the Nuggets will decide to play, or if he, like Jokic, will keep using time to rest for Denver's title defense.

Boston acquired Porzingis from the Washington Wizards in a three-team trade in June. The Celtics, who sent defensive specialist Marcus Smart to the Memphis Grizzlies in the deal, added the 7-foot-3 Porzingis after coming within one game of the NBA Finals. Porzingis averaged a career-high 23.2 points per game along with 8.4 rebounds last season in Washington. ***(AP)***

AP

Boston Celtics center Kristaps Porzingis, center, poses with coach Joe Mazzulla, left, and Brad Stevens, president of basketball operations, during a media availability June 29, 2023, in Boston.

PAYDAYHAO

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sively had a three-home run game from four at-bats.

It was the end for Ready Mix when they could only score three more in the fourth and one in the fifth inning.

Aimeliik Bat Boys 19, Mamaaw 5

The Aimeliik Bat Boys defeated Mamaaw, 19-5, thanks in large part to Sus Iguel's four home runs in four at-bats.

Assisting Iguel in their quest for a win, Tyrone Omar, Nokki Saralu, Irvin Saralu, Luis Iguel, Jose Kumoi, and Henry Fleming each hit a home run as well.

Meanwhile, Mamaaw scored their first run in the second inning thanks to a run by Keoni Serano. Kobe Lifoifoi and Jon Norita scored two in the third, followed by a home run by Ze Lifoifoi. Only one more run was by Mamaaw from a solo shot by Rich Quitugua.

No Excuse 34, Dat's It 13

In only three innings, that was it for Dat's It as they were dealt a crushing blow by No Excuse, 13-34.

No Excuse was on point with their swings as the second inning was a nightmare for Dat's It pitcher Jon Welson. No Excuse put up 21 runs in that inning from multiple home runs up and down the lineup until finally, the third out was made some minutes later.

That was basically it for Dat's It as they could only reply with eight runs in the second after their five-run first inning.

The game was called off after No Excuse scored 11 more runs in the third and Dat's It could not retaliate.

Just 4 Fun 29, Kebruka 17

The undefeated Just 4 Fun beat Kebruka, 29-17.

In just five innings, Just 4 Fun scored 13 in the second and nine in the fourth, plus two in the first and third, and three in the last inning.

Kebruka tried to comeback in the fourth inning after scoring 10 runs, but fell short as Just 4 Fun pitcher Keith Kintol and his defense held them back in the last couple of innings.

V1

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a time of 1:03:20.510; fourth place were Olivia Tenorio and Lori Rabe at 1:04:56.010; and fifth place was Gracie Mendiola and Danica Calvo at 1:06:42.480.

For the open men's/junior boys V1 relay, first place went to Carter Aldan and Joe Weaver with their time of 1:11:33.960; and second place went to Billy Grow and Tim Asaivao with a time of 1:18:32.480.

Phillip Aldan and Tyler Andrew were the lone participants in the junior boys race and finished the fastest amongst the open men paddlers with a time of 1:11:08.460.

The Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation season began last July 8 with a V6 distance race.

On Aug. 26, V1 open men/women and junior paddlers will take on the 6- to 8-mile race from Kilili Beach to the black buoy and back. Top 3 in the V6/V1 distance will be awarded that day.

The season will close off with a bang on Sept. 23 and 24 as the V1 open men/women and junior paddlers will take on the 500m sprints.

V6 open men/women and mixed paddlers will also race in the 500m and in the 1,500m sprints. There will also be a V12 open men/women and mixed paddlers 500m race. Awards for the Top 3 finishers will be given on Sept. 24.

CK

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lead in the next. Leo Galarse and Dom Blas were a force to be reckoned with in the second quarter as they made most of the shots they took and blew up the Saints' lead to a staggering 43-point deficit.

The already gassed out IT&E crew only put up 7 points in the second quarter and was a 64-21 game by the third.

IT&E's Rodjay Macaraig tried to dig out of the hole his team was in, but with 11 points, it was the most their team had. Jhaypee Jose contributed 7, while Billy Natividad had 6 markers.

The Saints just won't stop putting up numbers as Luizi Reyes had 23, while Galarse scored 20. Blas had 17 markers of his own, while Brad Palacios banked in 13. The third quarter was a no-fly zone for IT&E as they shot only 7 points for a huge 92-28 Saints lead.

IT&E fared better in the last quarter as they shot 20 points, but even before then, it was a little too late.

In the first game of the night, Winners came out on top against Priority Care, thanks to Jeter Medina's 34 points.

His teammate John Mejarito had the second most points by a long shot with 12, while Dhonald Romo made 10.

It was a pretty tight game heading into the second quarter, with Priority Care in the lead by three, 21-19, but that came to an end in the second when Winners came barging in with more accurate shots.

By the end of the second, Winners were up by 7 points. Priority Care's Steve King was still the king of the court for their team as he made 30 of the team's 71 points, but his effort was all in vain as his teammates did not have his back.

The Winners' defense tightened throughout the game and just made shot after shot to free themselves from Priority Care's try for a comeback in the third quarter for a somewhat close, 61-57 game in favor of the Winners.

However, Winners' Dhonald Romo ensured this time around that they will live up to their team's name as he made multiple baskets in the last minutes of the game and pulled away from Priority Care for the W.

First Game

Winners 87 – Medina 34, Mejarito 12, Romo 10, Flores 6, Rebusquillo 6, Roncal 6, Ilave 4, E. Banayos 3, Danipog 2, M. Banayos 2, Regacho 2.

Priority Care 71 – King 30, Duenas 18, Agulto 7, Maratita 4, Taimanao 4, Reyes 3, Mafnas 3,

Scoring by quarters: 19-22, 41-34, 61-57, 87-71.

Second Game

CK Saints 122 – Luizi Reyes 23, Leo Galarse 20, D. Blas 17, Palacios 13, Tudela 10, Brennan 9, Ybanes 8, Thongaran 6, LJ Reyes 4, E. Blas 4, Manibusan 4, Mendiola 4.

IT&E 45 – Macaraig 11, Jose 7, Billy Natividad 6, De Guzman 5, Giron 4, Brian Natividad 3, Pineda 3, Tapay 2, Kiseo 2, Divinagracia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-14, 64-21, 92-28, 122-47.

Spain beats Sweden with last-minute goal, advances to 1st final.

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Getting used to some rule differences is part of learning process for USA Basketball.

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PayDayHao pummels Ready Mix, 33-15

LEIGH GASES

CK Saints' Brad Palacios goes for an uncontested jumpshot during their game against IT&E in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 Tuesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

V1 paddlers finish strong in long distance races

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The V1 *va'a* paddlers finished strong in their distance races in the continuation of the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation season last July 22.

The course was a 4- to 6-mile race from Kilili Beach to the 13 Fishermen Monument and back.

The categories were V1 relay open women and junior girls; and V1 open men and junior boys.

In the V1 relay open women's race, Pipit Ball and Bonny Grow paddled first to the finish line with a time of 58:10.086; a close second was Elaine Sablan and Momoko Halstead at 58:36.580; third was Erryne Dasalla and Kanoe Aiu with

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the V1 Relay women's open pose for a photo after their race last July 22 at the Kilili Beach. From left, Bonny Grow, Erryne Dasalla, Elaine Sablan, and Momoko Halstead. Not in picture are Gracie Mendiola, Danica Calvo, Kanoe Aiu, Lori Rabe, Pipit Ball, and Olivia Tenorio.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Billy Grow, Carter Aldan, Joe Weaver, Tim Asaivao, Phillip Aldan, and Tyler Andrew pose for a photo after the V1 open men and junior boys relay last July 22 at the Kilili Beach

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

PayDayHao paid their dues against Ready Mix in a home run-heavy, mercy-ruled game, 33-15, in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

It was a fiery start for PayDayHao as they scored nine runs from three home runs that cleared the bases made by Rob Bansil, Tindin Leon Guerrero, and pitcher George David.

Ready Mix tried to get back but scored just four runs from a three-RBI home run by Angel Palacios and a solo shot by Travis Malwelbug. It was runs galore for PayDayHao as they scored eight more in the third inning and were up at this point by nine runs as Ready Mix scored eight previously for a 17-8 game.

Ready Mix pitcher Lizama could not extinguish PayDayHao's hot bats as they ended up scoring 13 runs in the fifth inning alone—with everyone but one batter scoring. In that inning, six home runs were made. Jesus Attao impres-

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CK Saints, Winners Group crush foes in Eagles caging

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The CK Saints and Winners Group crushed their respective foes in the continuation of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 Tuesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Both in the open division, the CK Saints won against IT&E in a blowout, 122-45, while the Winners Group won over Priority Care, 87-71.

The Saints glided through the court with ease as their speedier and younger roster overpowered IT&E from the get-go.

By the end of the first quarter, the Saints were up by 14 points and looked to lengthen that

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LEIGH GASES

CK Saints' Brad Palacios goes for an uncontested jumpshot during their game against IT&E in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 Tuesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.